

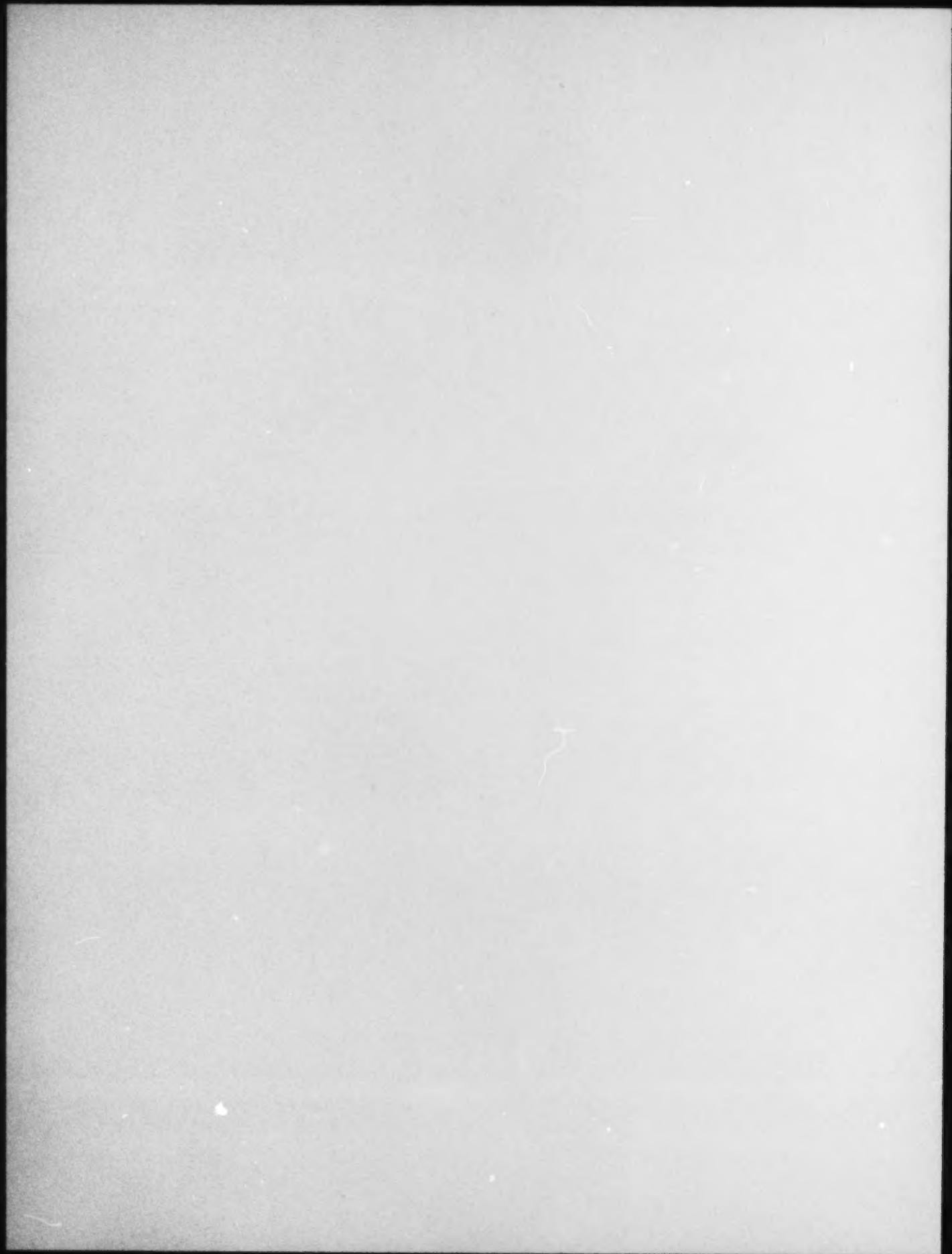


Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-139
Thursday
18 July 1996

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Daily Report

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Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: Islamists Protest Syria's Arrest of 'Afghan Arabs'

MM1807104596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
18 Jul 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah: "Campaign in Syria Against 'Afghan Arabs,' Including Wanted Egyptians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The "Afghan Arabs" [Arabs who fought alongside Afghan mujahidin] issue has returned to the fore on the political scene, with the announcement by Arab Islamists residing in European states that the Syrian authorities recently arrested a large number of resident "Afghan Arabs." They said that the detainees had entered Syrian territory officially and that some of them had lived there for years. Informed Egyptian sources have revealed that contacts were made with Syrian officials to seek their intervention to halt the activities of several members of Egyptian religious groups sheltering on Syrian territory.

The "Islamic Information Bureau," a body comprising Arab Islamists living in European states, issued a statement yesterday — of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy — calling on human rights organizations "to intervene with the Syrian Government and urge it to free the innocent people, men, women, and children; to comply with 'international human rights charters'; to refrain from 'pursuing the Arab community's sons; and not to extradite them to their countries, which have been proved to be violating human rights, since that would endanger their lives."

The statement said that the Syrian security services have over the past few days launched campaigns to "arrest some Muslim young men residing on Syrian territory." It pointed out that the detainees belong to several Arab nationalities. The statement added: "The bureau stresses the seriousness of the measures taken, considers them a blatant violation of human rights, and points out that international law prohibits any state from expelling people to countries in which they might be exposed to serious human rights violations, as that is considered a violation of the 'noncompulsory extradition' principle, which is internationally recognized and binding on all states."

AL-HAYAH has learned that Egyptian-Syrian contacts were made recently over the presence of several members of extremist religious groups on Syrian territory. Informed Egyptian sources have said that Egyptian officials handed to the Syrians a list of some of these members, some of whom live in the Syrian capital while the others live elsewhere. The sources said that the "Afghan Arabs" whose extradition is sought by Egypt

include people who had lived in Jordan, where they were taught religious subjects by Shaykh Nasir-al-Din al-Albani. They left Jordanian territory and moved to Syria following the [Jordanian] government's intervention.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 9 Jul

NC1807092796

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 9 July edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

Contents:

1. Erbakan Hailed as Turkey's First Islamic Premier
2. Erbakan Views Ties With West, Islamic Unity
3. Editor Accuses Minister of Planning Attack
4. Court Annuls Election Results in Constituency
5. Committee Calls For Release of Muslim Brotherhood Members; Trial Continues
6. Editor Vows To Continue Anticorruption Campaign
7. Labor Party Rally Defends Freedoms, Arab Unity
8. Mashhur Comments on Current Issues
9. Washington Worried by Egyptian-Iranian-Syrian Alliance

ERBAKAN HAILED AS TURKEY'S FIRST ISLAMIC PREMIER

Muhammad al-Quddusi hails Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's formation of his "Islamic" government in an approximately 300-word article on pages 1 and 8. He adds that 73 years after the fall of the "Islamic Caliphate in Turkey," Erbakan has succeeded in leading the Islamist-led government to win the parliament's confidence, thus crowning 30 years of political struggle and jihad.

For his part, Labor Party Chairman Ibrahim Shukri has cabled Erbakan to congratulate him on winning the parliament's confidence. In his cable, published on page 1, Shukri notes that Erbakan's assumption of power will "signal the start of a new era of ties between Turkey and the Arab and Islamic countries and solve the outstanding problems between Turkey and some Arab states." Shukri adds: "We are certain that your government will always side with the just rights of the Arab people and will reconsider the Turkish-Israeli agreement."

ERBAKAN VIEWS TIES WITH WEST, ISLAMIC UNITY

A report on an interview with Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, conducted by Dr. Salah 'Abd-al-Mut'al after an Islamic conference held in Istanbul

on 28 and 29 May 1996, is published on page 7. In his approximately 2,000-word report, 'Abd-al-Mut'al notes that Erbakan outlined five "hopes" for the Islamic nation: The establishment of a "defense alliance for the Islamic nation," the establishment of an "Islamic United Nations," and an "Islamic common market," a "pan-Islamic currency," and the adoption of a strategy for objective cultural cooperation among the Islamic states. Told that these are "far-fetched" dreams, Erbakan said they are merely "strategic goals that we will be unable to attain easily or overnight." Erbakan adds that special conferences and workshops must be held for this purpose to prioritize these goals and define the practical ways to "mobilize" the Islamic peoples to pressure their governments to comply with these principles. Noting that these "wishes" cannot be met through violence, Erbakan points out that his party carries out its activity without any violence or oppression, adding that the important thing is to reach power through the "will of the people." Regarding his party's views on the West and its culture, Erbakan notes the importance of benefiting from the scientific and technological advances of the West but he warns against "blind imitation" of things that do not suit Islamic society. He notes that the Islamic world possesses resources and capabilities that can make it self-reliant and that can help it develop the kind of technology that suits its development requirements.

EDITOR ACCUSES MINISTER OF PLANNING ATTACK

AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn has accused Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi of planning the attack on him. An approximately 500-word unattributed report on pages 1 and 8 notes that Husayn told the 'Abidin Prosecution Office that al-Alfi had sought from the attack to end his press campaign to reveal the minister's "irregularities" and to steal the "serious documents incriminating the minister" that the attackers thought were in his briefcase.

In a related issue, Labor Party Deputy 'Ali Fath-al-Bab submitted an urgent request to the People's Assembly demanding a statement from the interior minister on the attack against Husayn, an approximately 250-word report on page 1 notes. Fath-al-Bab notes that the attack followed a phone threat, which was reported in AL-SHA'B a few days before the incident, something that should have prompted the ministry to tighten security measures to protect Husayn.

COURT ANNULS ELECTION RESULTS IN CONSTITUENCY

An approximately 200-word report on page 1 notes that the Court of Cassation has annulled the People's Assembly election for the al-Duqqi Constituency in al-Jizah Governorate, in which Social Affairs Minister Amal 'Uthman defeated Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman al-Ma'mun al-Hudaybi. The court found that the vote-counting documents were not signed by the head or members of the election committee. The report notes that the court ruling is in favor of al-Hudaybi, who challenged the results before the court.

COMMITTEE CALLS FOR RELEASE OF MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS; TRIAL CONTINUES

The National Committee for the Defense of Prisoners of Conscience has called on President Mubarak to suspend the military trials of the Muslim Brotherhood and al-Wasat Party members and to release prisoners indicted by previous military courts. In a news conference held at the al-Wafd Party headquarters on 8 July, covered by a 500-word report written by Dawud Hasan and published on page 1, the committee called on parties and national forces to adopt firm measures to end the government's onslaught against the Brotherhood and founders of the al-Wasat Party. Islamist lawyer Dr. Salim al-'Awwa notes that defendants in Military Case No. 5, in which founders of the al-Wasat Party are on trial, are facing an unprecedented charge, namely, forming a political party as a front for the Muslim Brotherhood.

In a related issue, an approximately 1,200-word report on page 7 notes that the military court held two sessions on 4 and 6 July to continue the trial of the 13 defendants in Military Case No. 5 for 1996. Ten members of the Muslim Brotherhood and three founders of the al-Wasat Party are on trial. According to prosecution witnesses, the main charge against the defendants is their bid to form a political party by leading the public to believe that there are internal differences within the Muslim Brotherhood over the establishment of this party so that the regime might permit the establishment of this party. In the two sessions the court permitted dialogue between the defendants and prosecution witnesses, mostly police officers, in which the defendants denied and refuted all the charges against them.

EDITOR VOWS TO CONTINUE ANTICORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

Chief Editor Majdi Husayn, in an approximately 3,000-word article on page 2, vows to continue his campaign against Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, whom he accused of being one of the "centers of corruption" in

the country, despite the attack against him, which he described as a "bad omen." Husayn notes that his campaign against the minister and his "clique" is a concerted, calm, and well-documented campaign with no personal motives. Noting that he is only asking the Interior Ministry to apply, safeguard, and comply with the law, Husayn accuses the minister of "nepotism" and favoritism. Asserting that he knows that what goes on inside the Ministry is far more serious than what the paper is publishing, Husayn explains that the "major irregularities" are not documented, but are known to all the Ministry officials. This, he adds, requires the intervention of a higher authority, noting that he is ready to relate the "corruption incidents" that he knows about to any neutral body appointed by President Mubarak. Noting that he has voiced his appreciation of President Mubarak for ordering the abrogation of Law 93 that restricted the activity of journalists and for his attempt to reform Egypt's Arab and external policies, Husayn adds: "Reforming our internal affairs and mending the rifts and cracks is equally important, if not more important, than reforming the external policies, for the strength of the internal structure is the basis for confronting the external enemies, and we expect much from President Mubarak in this regard." Concluding his article, Husayn writes: "The continuation of our campaign has become inevitable for us until we destroy the aura of corruption." He notes that this is a "modest example" so that "thuggery" does not become the law of the land, a very important meaning that deserves "martyrdom" for its defense, he adds.

LABOR PARTY RALLY DEFENDS FREEDOMS, ARAB UNITY

An approximately 4,000-word unattributed report on a massive rally held at the Labor Party headquarters on 5 July to defend Arab unity and public freedoms is published on page 4. The rally was attended by representatives of political parties and national forces along with Labor Party Chairman Ibrahim Shukri and Secretary General 'Adil Husayn. Most speakers at the rally hailed the recommendations of the recent Arab summit held in Cairo on 22 and 23 June as a good start toward reuniting the Arabs and eliminating inter-Arab differences in the face of "U.S.-Zionist conspiracies." The speakers called for continuing the popular confrontation against normalization with Israel, noting that normalization is a betrayal of the Arabs' foremost cause as well as the message of Islam. The speakers also condemned the attack on AL-SHA'B Editor Majdi Husayn.

MASHHUR COMMENTS ON CURRENT ISSUES

Muslim Brotherhood Guide Mustafa Mashhur comments on current issues in an approximately 2,500-word article on page 5. Beginning with the recent Arab summit in Cairo, Mashhur notes that the Arabs and Muslims were pleased with and pinned hopes on this summit to offset the schemes of the enemy, which is disturbed by the Arab unity of rank. He expresses his happiness with the efforts to eliminate inter-Arab differences and urges the Arabs to lift the embargo on Iraq, Libya, and Sudan.

Turning to Turkish-Israeli ties, Mashhur notes that everybody knows that the "Jews" played an active role in bringing down the Ottoman Caliphate after Sultan 'Abd-al-Hamid refused to give them Palestine in exchange for money. Noting that the recent agreement between Turkey and the "Zionist enemy" has deep roots in history, Mashhur adds that despite this the Islamic Welfare Party has reached power peacefully through free elections and without any violence, terrorism, or forgery. He notes that secularism has failed to eliminate the roots of Islam in Turkey.

Mashhur notes that Egypt, with its known history and influence in the Arab and Islamic worlds, has always been the target of enemies. Under pressure from these enemies, Egypt was the first country to recognize the "Zionist enemy." These same enemies made arrangements for Egypt to receive financial aid under the Camp David Accord so that this aid could be used as an element of pressure when necessary, he adds. He continues: "When Egypt started to regain its standing among the Arab and Islamic countries by calling for an Arab summit, the policy of marginalization, criticism, and fabrication of strange reasons for this criticism started." Noting that Egypt is the home of the al-Azhar Mosque and the birthplace of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mashhur explains that this is another reason for the enemies' onslaught against Egypt, adding that al-Azhar and the Muslim Brotherhood will continue their message calling for the implementation of Islamic shari'ah. He adds: "This is because the Brotherhood's message is Islam and nothing but Islam, which will never be destroyed—regardless of the enemies' schemes and intrigues."

Addressing his fellow Brotherhood members now in prison, Mashhur calls on them to accept God's destiny with "satisfaction," perseverance, and great hope that God will not let them down. He regrets President Mubarak's remarks to a French newspaper in which he said that all Egyptians are tired of the Brotherhood's violence. Mashhur adds: "We challenge any Egyptian to come up with a single case in which a Muslim brother is accused of an act of violence over many years."

WASHINGTON WORRIED BY EGYPTIAN-IRANIAN-SYRIAN ALLIANCE

A 700-word report by Mahmud Bakri on pages 1 and 8 notes that Washington is concerned by reports of a possible alliance among Egypt, Iran, and Syria.

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 10 Jul

NC1707195996

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 10 July edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Writer on Islam's Marriage, Divorce Laws
2. Amnesty International Criticizes Pakistan's Application of Shari'ah
3. Idea of Religious Television Station Under Study
4. Conference To Discuss Development of Higher Studies
5. Islamic Propagation in 21st Century Discussed
6. Islamic Universities Association Headquarters Moved to al-Azhar
7. Crisis Between al-Azhar and Book Authority
8. Dangers Facing Islamic Nation in 21st Century Viewed
9. Scholars on Dangers of Dealing With Jews

WRITER ON ISLAM'S MARRIAGE, DIVORCE LAWS

In his 1,000-word article on page 1, the paper's chairman of the board al-Hamzah Di'bis takes the issue of Britain's Prince of Wales divorce from his wife Princess Diana and the American Television soap opera "The Bold and the Beautiful" to highlight what he calls the sufferings of men in the west from bad marriages, the difficulties they face in obtaining divorce, and their resorting to adultery with other people. He views the case of Prince Charles in detail, lamenting the latter's difficulty in obtaining a divorce because of Princess Diana's greed, and the case of the hero in the Bold and the Beautiful, who is unable to divorce his wife in his own state and has to go to another one where divorce laws are more flexible. According to the writer, the morale of these two tales is that men in the west suffer because they do not have Islam's rules on marriage, divorce, and polygamy. In conclusion, he writes: "Let the United States, England, Russia, France, and other countries know that there is no goodness, success, or deliverance except in belief in God alone, his messenger Prophet Muhammad, his books the dearest of which is

the Holy Koran, fate, and the application of His shari'ah. This is a distant hope but is not impossible for God."

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CRITICIZES PAKISTAN'S APPLICATION OF SHARI'AH

A 300-word report on page 1 by 'Abd-al-Rasul al-Zarqani says that Amnesty International has severely criticized Pakistan in its 1996 report for applying Islamic shari'ah and details some of the cases of executions, severance of limbs, and lashings meted out to criminals in accordance with Islamic shari'ah.

IDEA OF RELIGIOUS TELEVISION STATION UNDER STUDY

An unattributed 150-word report on page 1 quotes al-Azhar University President Dr. Ahmad Muhammad Hashim as saying that the al-Azhar is studying the idea of setting up a religious television station to resist "the attempts to alienate our youth in order to make them abandon their religion" and is also studying the idea of joining the world Internet network for the same purpose. He also says that al-Azhar is studying the possibility of holding a conference to discuss the problems of Muslim minorities and a new propagation college.

CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER STUDIES

An unattributed 100-word report on page 1 says that an expanded conference will be held in al-Azhar University in September to discuss the development of higher studies by studying the problems facing youth and teaching staff and drawing up radical solutions for them.

ISLAMIC PROPAGATION IN 21ST CENTURY DISCUSSED

An unattributed 60-word report on page 1 says that delegations from al-Azhar and a dozen other Islamic countries took part in a conference on Islam and the 21st Century held in Amsterdam, which discussed the means of promoting Islamic propagation at the start of the next century.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS MOVED TO AL-AZHAR

An unattributed 50-word report on page 1 says that the headquarters of the Islamic Universities Association has been moved from Morocco to al-Azhar.

CRISIS BETWEEN AL-AZHAR AND BOOK AUTHORITY

An unattributed 300-word report on page 1 claims a crisis between al-Azhar and the Egyptian Book Authority due to the latter's publication of literary and

intellectual, but not Islamic heritage books. The report also alleges that al-Azhar has confiscated a number of books published by the authority and asked to review other published Islamic works.

A related 100-word report on page 1 says that copies of Yusuf al-Siba'i's book "The Angel of Death's Deputy" have been confiscated after being banned by al-Azhar, which was angry with the authority's publication of books al-Azhar has opposed for many years.

DANGERS FACING ISLAMIC NATION IN 21ST CENTURY VIEWED

A 3,000-word article prepared by Ahmad al-Nahas on page 3 solicits the views of various thinkers and scholars on the challenges and dangers facing the Arab and Islamic nation in the 21st Century. Islamic thinker Dr. 'Abd-al-Sabur Shahin compares the current conditions in the Arab and Islamic world to a drowning man looking for a straw to save himself, but asserts that this straw is not the west but "Islam, which is the only salvation and life buoy" that "those drowning are fighting and struggling to keep it from exerting its influence and performing its historic role of saving this nation from the claws of its enemies." He says that "the plot against the Islamic world will continue until it achieves its objectives of fragmenting this nation still further" until God wills otherwise in the end.

Dr. Sufi Abu-Talib, former People's Assembly speaker, views the emergence of Islam and the Islamic state and asserts that "we are in dire need for a contemporary view of our Islamic cultural and intellectual heritage and for creating some interaction with it in light of the historic development and benefits from technological and cultural advancement."

Dr. Salwa Nazim, Hebrew language teacher at Cairo University, asserts for her part that Islam is the solution, noting that "it is a course that has proved its effectiveness throughout the ages" and that "it is not against capitalism, since if each one of us does what he must do and complies with Islam's principles then there will be no poverty, weakness, or subservience."

Dr. Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, al-Azhar University Chairman, notes that the Islamic nation needs to unite its views and stances against the changes of the era and goes on to assert that "this nation needs a common Islamic market to confront what he called the age of blocs."

Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif Hamasah, grammar teacher at Dar al-'Ulum, says that "we should not abandon the spirit of jihad on the pretext that there are not enough weapons. We are many in number and this should not prevent us from getting ready for jihad even

if we have to fight with clubs and stones. There must be a spirit of jihad in war and peace."

Writer Ahmad Kamal Zaki voices the view that the recent Arab summit resolutions are fit to be the basis for an ideal strategy with which the Arabs can face the future.

Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, Islamic Civilization teacher at Cairo University, says "we must return to God" as this "will ensure for us superiority and progress and self-sufficiency in everything."

SCHOLARS ON DANGERS OF DEALING WITH JEWS

Various figures are interviewed in an unattributed 1,100-word report on page 3 on how to avoid the dangers of dealing with Jews.

Dr. Mahmud Hammas, teacher in the Arab Language College, al-Azhar University, says that "the establishment of ties with Jews must be subject to minute calculations whose end serves the interests of Arabs and Muslims." Dr. Husayn Duwaydar, history teacher in the same college, reviews the history of Jews with Arabs, specially with Prophet Muhammad, and concludes that "the Arab and Muslim countries' relations with Israel must be based on extreme caution on one hand and on respect for treaties and charters between Muslims and Jews on the other, taking into account the balances of power, non-interference by one country in other countries' affairs, and non-aggression." He also urges that the doors should not be opened wide for Israel, which is seeking to weaken the Arabs and Muslims. Dr. Rizq Sa'd 'Abd-al-Mu'ti, teacher in the journalism department of the Arab Language College, is of the same opinion on the need for caution and criticizes unnamed Muslim countries for entering into military and economic treaties with Israel. Dr. Yusuf al-Qaradawi answers a question on Islam's judgment of a person who deals with his religion's and homeland's enemies. He says that a Muslim must fight a jihad with his hands and his tongue and anything that weakens the enemy. He urges that "every Muslim should do all he can and within the limits of his ability and should never support or back his country's enemy, regardless of whether this enemy is Jewish, pagan, or anything else."

18 July 1996

Palestinian Affairs**Palestinian Affairs: 'Israeli Reservations' Said To Nix USAID Water Deal***TA1707183796 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1600 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[Unattributed report entitled: "USAID Submits to Israeli Pressure"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Government backed out of a \$46.5 million contract with the Palestinian Authority [PA] today, PA Cabinet ministers told JMCC. The agreement "to increase access and effective use of scarce water resources for Palestinians living in the West Bank" was to be signed at noon today between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the PA Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and Water Authority.

PA head Yasir 'Arafat and US Consul-General Edward Abington were to witness the signing.

Both arrived late, and Abington reportedly told 'Arafat that the agreement could not be signed because of Israeli reservations. "Israel contends that it must be a partner to the agreement, and that the agreement cannot be signed between the US and Palestine alone," said the minister, who refused to be named.

"The US Government, through the US Agency for International Development, contracted Camp Dresser & McKee International, Inc (CDM), an American company, to provide technical assistance and consultative services to the Palestinian Water Authority," read a press release carrying yesterday's date by the US Information Service.

The \$46.5 million contract was to be spent over three years.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Water Deal 'Vital' for Palestinians*TA1707184496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[Fayiz 'Umar video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Following the Legislative Council session, the Palestinian Authority [PA] chairman left for the Nabulus municipality amid large crowds that lined both sides of the street leading to the building. The crowds welcomed PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat with enthusiastic applause and greetings as he entered the municipality to sign the agreement on developing and improving the water network in the PA areas at a cost of \$46 million funded by the U.S. Government.

[Begin recording] ['Umar] Your Excellency the president, how do you view the U.S. Government's interest in developing vital projects in the PA areas?

['Arafat] The fact is that we have to thank President Clinton and the U.S. Government for this effort which they are exerting to improve these important projects, primarily this water project. This is a vital project for children, schools, hospitals, and everything in our life. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Radio Reports on Water Project Contract With USAID*JN1707185596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[Report by Khalil Abu-'Arab in Nabulus]

[FBIS Translated Text] In presence of President Yasir 'Arafat, a memorandum of understanding was signed at Nabulus Municipality this afternoon between the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] and the Palestinian Water Authority [PWA], whereby the agency will extend \$46.5-million in assistance to the PWA over the next seven years.

This assistance is aimed at developing the capabilities of the PWA in order exploit water resources in Palestine more effectively.

The signing ceremony was attended by Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; Ghassan al-Shak'ah, PLO Executive Committee member and head of Nabulus Municipality Committee; and Nadhir al-Sharif, PWA director.

On the U.S. side, the ceremony was attended by Edward Abington, U.S. consul general, and (Christopher Crowe), director of USAID, in addition to representatives from the Ministries of Planning and International Cooperation; Local Government; and Agriculture.

Following the ceremony, President 'Arafat delivered a speech in which he lauded the U.S. efforts to develop the Palestinian infrastructure and expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for USAID's sponsorship of these projects. He said he hopes that the agreement will be implemented on the ground.

The president attended a Legislative Council meeting at the headquarters of al-Rawdah College for Vocational Education in the governorate today. The meeting participants discussed the National Authority bylaws.

Palestinian Affairs: Official—Netanyahu's Closure Easing 'Insufficient'

NC1807133996 Paris AFP in English
1331 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, July 18 (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's plans to ease the nearly five-month closure of the Palestinian territories do not go far enough, a senior Palestinian official told AFP Thursday [18 July].

"It is insufficient and it is not good for the continuation of the peace process," said Hasan 'Ufur, head of the Palestinian Authority's negotiations department.

Netanyahu announced after talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that 10,000 more Palestinians would be allowed to return to work in Israel while the number of goods lorries and ambulances allowed to travel between the territories and the Jewish state would be increased.

Netanyahu said the easing of closure imposed in February at the start of a wave of Islamic militant bombings would make "life easier and promote an open economy."

He also announced that his Foreign Minister David Levi would meet next week with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

'Ufur said a Levi-'Arafat meeting would be a "good start to restore relations between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government."

The blockade has already been eased once shortly after the May elections to allow 25,000 Palestinians to return to their jobs in Israel.

The Palestinians maintained that the closure was costing them six million dollars a day in lost trade and earnings and leading to high unemployment.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' on Possibility of 'Confrontation' With Israel

JN1707181496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0430 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Telephone interview with Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Quray', identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ala', in Gaza by Fathi al-Barqawi in the Jericho studio, from the "A New Day" feature—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Barqawi] Brother Abu-'Ala', good morning.

[Quray'] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] The Israeli media have started a campaign against Palestinian officials. The Israeli media say that

the Palestinian officials are working to bring back the intifadah one way or another.

[Quray'] That is their own affair. They can say what they want. Our responsibility is to inform our people about what is really taking place. Our people must know what is happening so that they know what to do. Regrettably, Israel, the new Israeli Government, has turned its back on the peace process and the agreements it signed with us. It is carrying out measures that, I believe, will kill this process — measures that define the features of the final-status issues or freeze the timetable for the implementation of the transition agreements. This is the most important thing in these agreements. Therefore, our people must know the truth. It is not permissible for us to conceal the facts from our people. Otherwise, we will not be able to face them in future.

[Al-Barqawi] Then you agree with what an Israeli officer says that the statements made by ranking National Authority officials are not in line with the agreements that were signed with Israel?

[Quray'] This is not true. Israel's violations are the ones that are not in line with agreements we signed. Israel is the one violating the agreements. Israel is the one that reviews....[pauses] As Prime Minister Netanyahu has said, he wants to review the concept on which the agreements are based and the way these agreements are to be implemented. If this happens, it means a reassessment of all the agreements. Our people must be informed so they will not be surprised by the results. We can never allow our attention to be diverted by details or issues that have to do with daily life, at the expense of the principles of the Palestinian cause. We agreed to a phased solution and a timetable to implement these phases until we achieve our full rights. We did not give up any of our rights. The final-status negotiations signal that it is time for us to start getting what we should.

Therefore, they have no right to treat us unjustly, or, as I mentioned earlier, to continue with what they try to impose on us through settlements. The new settlement campaign seeks to fragment the West Bank and establish cantons there. They are also trying to impose new facts and Judaize Jerusalem. We reject all of this. No Palestinian on earth would accept this.

[Al-Barqawi] [Israeli] security and military sources say that your statements, brother Abu-'Ala', can only be interpreted as an invitation to take to the streets?

[Quray'] When there is a need to invite our people to take to the streets, we will not hesitate to do so. We will not hesitate to make this call with frankness, clarity, and in public. We will not hesitate. When it is

necessary, we will invite our people. As brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] mentioned two days ago, we are still committed and are exercising self-restraint. We cannot accept that while we are completely fulfilling the agreements' obligations, the other side does not want these agreements. Why should we be the only ones who are committed? Peace is a shared desire. Peace is an agreement between two sides, and a treaty between two parties, not an agreement you sign with yourself. If they want peace, we will want it, too. If they do not want it, we have other ways.

[Al-Barqawi] Is it possible that there will be a confrontation with Israel and the intifadah will resume?

[Quray'] If matters remain as they are, I do not see any alternative than confrontation and preparing ourselves for confrontation with all the requirements of this confrontation: diplomatic confrontation, political confrontation, and militant confrontation, which includes all forms of struggle. This is inevitable if they turn their back to this process. Our people will not hesitate to accept these facts. Our people have experienced struggle, our people have suffered and have offered more than the entire world expected from them for peace. Our people offered, made sacrifices, were sincere, and continue to be sincere. If they sincerely want peace, then we will also be sincere. If they do not want it, then this is their own affair. As for us, we will choose our course. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Comments on Israeli Settlement Policy

TA1707174896 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic
16 Jul 96 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah, AL-BILAD — Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, has said that peace and settlement activity are two parallel lines that cannot meet and that if the Israeli Government does not realize this fact, this means that it has decided to bury the peace process and choose settlement activity.

'Urayqat was commenting on statements made by Me'ir Porush, Israeli deputy construction and housing minister, two days ago about reactivating the settlement movement in the Palestinian territories.

He said the peace process is a Palestinian, Arab, and international option. It seems that the new Israeli Government is insisting on viewing things through the eyes of the past — that is, eyes of arrogance, force, and domination. He added that our Palestinian people have chosen the civilized way for negotiations with the Israeli side in order to solve the problem in all its aspects. If Israel has chosen to stop the negotiations and the peace

process, this does not mean that our people will remain idle and refrain from demanding their legitimate rights.

Dr. 'Urayqat stressed that Israel's reinforcement of settlement activity and its arbitrary measures against national institutions in Jerusalem are not only a violation of the agreements but are also tantamount to imposing a fait accompli, canceling the negotiations, and turning them into dictates. This proves Israel rejects peace and is endeavoring to undermine its pillars. Dr. 'Urayqat described Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's statements about Palestinian violations of the agreement as "deception." He said that Netanyahu is fully aware that President 'Arafat has officially proposed a meeting of the Higher Committee of the Negotiations aimed at the reciprocal implementation of the agreements.

The minister of local government said that anyone who observes the agreement signed with the Israeli Government on 28 September 1995 in Taba will find that the Palestinian side has fulfilled all its commitments and that there are 33 main obligations, including the redeployment in Hebron, the safe passage, the international crossings, and the release of prisoners, on which the Israeli Government has reneged. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abbas Calls Results of Talks With Gold 'Negligible'

TA1707123996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
0930 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that his meeting yesterday with Dr. Dore Gold, the Israeli prime minister's political adviser, came within the framework of the ongoing meetings and contacts between the two sides in a bid to establish the foundations for the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Abu-Mazin denied the meeting was tense and negative, as it has been described, but added that the results of the meeting were negligible. He hopes that future meetings will produce better results. Abu-Mazin described the new Israeli positions as headline grabbing and said they will not be the main positions at the negotiating table.

Abu-Mazin made these remarks in an interview with our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Tibi Calls For 'Meaningful' Meetings With 'Arafat

TA1707125896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1005 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi says no date has been set yet for the meeting between Yasir 'Arafat

and Foreign Minister David Levi. In any event, he said, Minister Levi will be welcome in 'Arafat's bureau in Gaza. It is not the meetings that count, however, but the substance, he noted.

[Begin al-Tibi recording] The important thing is the content of the meetings and not the meetings themselves. In the past few weeks we have seen the Israeli Government and Mr. Netanyahu trying to — excuse my language — hold the chairman on a leash and make him sweat some before Netanyahu deigns to meet with him.

Mr. Netanyahu will not be doing the Palestinian people any favor by meeting with Chairman 'Arafat. The most important and closest partner of the Israeli Government, the Israeli people, and Mr. Netanyahu is Yasir 'Arafat. Incidentally, without 'Arafat there is no political process in the region. Netanyahu may win as many standing ovations and compliments as he wants from the U.S. Senate — which, incidentally, is more Likud than the Likud — but the U.S. media is not a political process and is not the Middle East. Mr. Netanyahu must give concrete answers about the principle of peace for land, the future of the negotiations on the permanent solution, and issues such as Jerusalem and the settlements — whether he intends to evacuate settlements, build new ones, or expand existing ones. These are the important issues; the rest is just cosmetics. These issues ought to be dealt with in a manner that is meaningful and devoid of exhibitionism and cosmetics. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: PNC Speaker Calls For 'Broad Front' To Face Netanyahu

TA1707154996 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
16 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by Fayid Abu-Shamalah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Office of Documentation and Information — Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu-al-Adib, speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), has called on all Palestinian factions and political forces to form a broad front to confront the new challenges that have emerged following Binyamin Netanyahu's victory and the announcement of the Likud government's program, which is incompatible with the peace agreements. [passage omitted]

Al-Za'nun stressed: I am not referring only to those who are within the framework of the PLO and who participated in the PNC, but I also mean Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and any other faction, even those in Damascus, so that they will meet with their brothers in a broad front in order to confront the new conditions, which represent a new reality and which require the formulation of a new strategy for the coming stage.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas 'Leader' on Dialogue With PA

TA1707171696 Ramallah AL-BILAD in Arabic
16 Jul 96 p 4

[Interview with Sayyid Abu-Musamih, a Hamas "leader," by Hafiz Abu-Matar in Rafah; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Matar] Is the dialogue between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Palestinian Authority [PA] continuing?

[Abu-Musamih] Yes, it is, but the Likud's victory has had an impact on the entire region, be it the Palestinian or the international situation. On the Palestinian level, it is reflected in the form of a wait-and-see attitude, but this has put matters on hold. We are hopeful, however, that we will reach a solution that realizes the interests of every Palestinian home and of our Palestinian people.

[Abu-Matar] What is your impression of the Oslo accord today?

[Abu-Musamih] From the outset, our view on the Oslo accord was clear. The Likud's victory, as well as that of the Israeli religious extremists, is a clear sign of the depth of the Zionist perception and its impact on Israeli society. This is proof of the correctness of the Islamic movement's prediction that Israel does not seek peace but time and domination and that it aims to split the Arab and Islamic worlds in order to extend its economic and political influence. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Matar] Did Peres' fall from power have any connection with Hamas?

[Abu-Musamih] Peres' downfall was a Zionist choice and expresses the will of the Israeli people and their inclination toward extremism. Hamas has no connection with the victory of Netanyahu or others. If the operations had any effect, it was marginal. These suggestions are inconsistent with the strategic concept.

[Abu-Matar] Is the issue of the Islamic movement's detainees being discussed in the dialogue with the PA?

[Abu-Musamih] The issue of the detainees is one that we always raise in our dialogue. We fear the negative impact of this issue on the Palestinian house and hope there will be a positive response to this problem. We appreciate the step taken by the president and the Legislative Council toward the release of the detainees. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Matar] Is there any mediation in order to bring the views of the inside and outside Hamas closer?

[Abu-Musamih] First of all, Hamas is one movement, both inside and outside. It adopts its decisions through

its institutions. If there are different interpretations, this is natural. No movement is immune from this, whether the differences are internal or external. There are no disagreements, however, that require mediation to bring the views closer. Our movement has institutions, and through them we are able to decide on any position.

[Abu-Matar] The military operations have had a negative impact on the Palestinian economy. What lessons have you drawn?

[Abu-Musamih] As politicians, we have reiterated that the military wing is separate from the political wing and that there is no connection between them. Therefore, any decision adopted by the military wing expresses this wing's views and positions, but as a politician, I say that there was a seven-month period at the end of which Yahya 'Ayyash was martyred. Then all of us saw the reaction. Undoubtedly, this had its repercussions on our Palestinian situation and on the Israeli side.

Military decisions are adopted by those with the authority to decide. We do not make the decisions on military action, but in our dialogue with the PA, we are ready to discuss any topic that is raised, foremost of all military action. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Matar] It is being said Hamas has almost completely disintegrated. What is your view?

[Abu-Musamih] I do not believe so, because Hamas was and remains strong and will not disintegrate. This proves it has not been affected by what has happened lately.

[Abu-Matar] Do you consider it treachery if a leader leaves Hamas?

[Abu-Musamih] I believe that any movement is vulnerable to the departure of one of its leaders. This does not affect the progress of a movement that has a clear and active popularity on the Palestinian and Arab levels.

[Abu-Matar] Why is the AL-WATAN newspaper, which has been called AL-RISALAH, not being published?

[Abu-Musamih] We received the president's verbal approval, and we have submitted the documents to the relative ministry. We hope there will be progress in the dialogue so that this will positively affect the publication of the newspaper as one of the movement's institutions.

Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Debate on Basic Law Detailed

TA1707155296 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE
in English 1230 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Executive and Legislative branches of government fought it out today on the topic

of the Basic Law, which will act as the Palestinian constitution for the interim phase.

The Legislative Council convened in its 13th session in Nabulus today. The morning session lasted from 1030 [0730 GMT] to 1400 [1100 GMT], and the evening session begins at 1630 [1330 GMT].

This session was dedicated to the Basic Law. The document was to be discussed last week in Ramallah, but PA [Palestinian Authority] head Yasir 'Arafat asked that it be delayed until he attends. In this session, he demanded that the law be withdrawn from discussion, claiming that the PLO Legal Committee hadn't seen it yet. The head of the PLO Legal Committee, Jamal al-Surani, told the council that 'Arafat was not being accurate, since his committee had seen and modified the Basic Law and submitted it to the PA Justice Ministry, which in turn submitted it to the council for debate and ratification.

Legislative Council members went into a frenzy, arguing that 'Arafat was marginalizing and belittling the council. They demanded that they debate the Basic Law, and that if the executive branch or PLO has any amendments, they submit them to the council for discussion.

'Arafat insisted that the entire Basic Law be pulled, promising to submit another version. PA Justice Minister and Legislative Council member Furayh Abu-Middayn supported 'Arafat and motioned to pull the Basic Law from discussion. Other council members demand that the Basic Law deliberations begin immediately.

That's where the morning session ended.

Palestinian Affairs: Legislative Council Delays Further Debate on Basic Law

TA1707175796 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE
in English 1600 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Legislative Council ended its 13th session today, agreeing to delay discussion of the draft Basic Law "when it is submitted through legal channels." This was voted on 53-7.

Tomorrow the council will not convene, although it was originally scheduled to be a two-day session. The next meeting will be held in Ramallah on Tuesday, 23 July.

The council agreed to complete its first reading of the draft Basic Law before it goes on vacation. The last council session was originally scheduled for 4 August, but the council decided to extend its meetings until the Basic Law is ratified.

CORRECTION: Contrary to JMCC's earlier Press Service today, PLO Legal Committee head Jamal al-Surani

did not participate in today's session, and did not say that the Basic Law had been presented to his committee.

In a telephone interview, al-Surani told JMCC that he would accept the decision of the Legislative Council as to whether to present the draft Basic Law to the PLO Legal Committee or not. He confirmed that the PLO Legal Committee had not met to discuss the draft.

**Palestinian Affairs: 2 Suspected Collaborators
Murdered in Hebron Village**

TA1707145696 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1100 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two local residents were murdered early this morning in the village of Bayt Awla in the Hebron District, apparently because they were suspected of collaborating with Israel. Villagers claim they were killed by the Palestinian security services. Six masked men broke into their house and shot them to death. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that one of the victims was Nasir Masalma, who held an Israeli identity card. The Shin Bet had helped him settle in the Beersheba area.

Arab-Israeli Talks

**Arab-Israeli Talks: Netanyahu Meets Mubarak,
Discusses Closure, Press**

TA1807095496 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0900 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is currently conferring with President Mubarak at the al-Ittihadiyah palace in Cairo. On his way to Egypt, the prime minister told our correspondent Arye Gus that prior to his departure the cabinet made several decisions on the Palestinian issue, some of which he will declare in Cairo. According to Netanyahu, these decisions reflect a practical and positive approach by Israel to promoting the peace process with the Palestinians — and not only with them. Yesterday it was reported that Prime Minister Netanyahu would inform the Egyptian president of an easing of the territories' closure. Asked

for his reaction to the hostility and rudeness that the Egyptian press demonstrated toward him this morning, the prime minister replied that the real test is what President Mubarak says.

**Arab-Israeli Talks: Jordan, Israel Discuss
Consulates in Elat, al-'Aqabah**

TA1707161996 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
1400 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Israel are working to open consulates in al-'Aqabah and Elat. The Elat-al-'Aqabah steering committee established in accordance with the 1993 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan met yesterday. It recommended that the consulates be authorized to issue visas. It also recommended that tariffs for traveling between the two cities be lowered. Jordan recommended that the tariff be \$50. It is currently \$138 per person.

**Arab-Israeli Talks: King Hassan Said Not To Meet
Netanyahu Before 'Arafat**

TA1807113096 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 18 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] King Hassan of Morocco has linked a meeting with prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to the premier's meeting Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat, sources say.

When Netanyahu balked at the terms, Hassan turned down his request to stop over in Morocco during his return from the U.S. earlier this week.

According to reports, Hassan refused to speak to Netanyahu on the phone after the May 29 election.

Israel and Morocco maintain liaison offices in each other's countries.

There is speculation that Hassan is interested in hosting a Netanyahu-'Arafat meeting.

Algeria

Algeria: Daily Reports 'at Least 10' Dead in 2 Bomb Blasts

LD1807094996 Madrid RNE International in Spanish 0900 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] We now look at Algeria, where at least 10 people died as a result of two attacks with powerful explosives carried out yesterday in the Blida region, some 35 km south of Algiers, according to a report today in the daily EL WATAN.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued today in Algiers, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the party led by former President Ahmed Ben Bella, has once again called for the rehabilitation of the illegal Islamic Salvation Front, FIS.

Algeria: 'Unrest' Within GIA Said To Threaten Leader Zitouni

MM1707140496 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 96 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Zitouni Reportedly Moved to Algerian Capital"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — No confirmation or denial was issued yesterday of AFP's report from Algeria about the dismissal of Djamel Zitouni (Abou Abderrahmane Amin), amir of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA).

However, Algerian Islamic sources have told AL-HAYAH over the telephone that available information about the GIA amir confirms that he has been pursued for sometime by breakaway groups and that he constantly moves from one place to another for fear of his elimination.

The sources said that the available information says that Zitouni has been in the Algerian capital since he left his stronghold in Tablat and Medea, south of the capital. The sources cited residents from the districts in which Zitouni hid in Medea as saying that his recent movements indicated that he was expecting an action against his leadership. They added that his concern was not based on his fear of an attack by the security forces but, instead, on information about unrest inside the GIA. [passage omitted]

Algeria: \$1 Billion Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed

LD1707184196 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Algeria today signed a debt rescheduling agreement to the tune of \$1 billion with De Lisinic [as heard] institutions, a syndicate of institutions

which purchase debts and resell them at a profit. This is considered to be the last agreement Algeria will sign with the London Club, the total value of which is \$3.2 billion.

On 27 June Algeria signed an rescheduling agreement with the London Club to the tune of \$2.2 billion. It is worth noting that the total amount rescheduled with the Paris and London clubs is \$15.5 billion.

Egypt

Egypt: Al-Baz Meets Netanyahu's Adviser

NC1707140996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Dori Gold, adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Dr. al-Baz said after the meeting that they discussed the preparations for Netanyahu's visit to Cairo tomorrow, Thursday [17 July].

In response to a question about his impression of this meeting and the extent of his optimism, Dr. al-Baz said: We will listen to the new Israeli prime minister with an open mind, specially if what he raises is positive and will help in giving impetus to the peace process, implementing the agreements already made, and entering into negotiations with the aim of continuing the peace process.

On Israel's announcement yesterday about easing the security cordon imposed on the territories under the Palestinian self-rule authority, al-Baz said: It will be a positive step if this is true. But, there are other basic steps that must be taken and we hope that tomorrow's meeting will mark a start on this road.

Egypt: Musa Views Stand To Be Explained to Israel's Netanyahu

NC1707151896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1408 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that Cairo will listen to the position that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will express during his visit to Cairo tomorrow, Thursday. He said that President Mubarak will explain at his meeting with Netanyahu the Egyptian and Arab stands and their interest in the peace process as a strategic option that must have formulas for implementation.

He added that these formulas must be based on the principles on which the peace process was begun and on the same bases agreed on and the objectives we are seeking.

In a statement he made today, Musa went on to say that Egypt will emphasize during this meeting the importance of the peace process and the region's need for peace. He added that this peace must be fair, comprehensive, and lasting so that all other matters in the region can proceed forward positively.

The foreign minister met earlier today with Dori Gold, the Israeli prime minister's political adviser. Discussions dealt with preparations for Netanyahu's visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Mubarak.

Egypt: Netanyahu Arrives, Receives Official Welcome

NC1807075196 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0742 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu arrived in Cairo this morning on his first visit to Egypt since becoming prime minister. He was received at Cairo Airport by Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri.

Official welcoming ceremonies were held for the Israeli prime minister at the airport. The military band played the two countries' national anthems after which the Israeli guest and Dr. al-Janzuri inspected the honor guard. Netanyahu then shook hands with the senior officials welcoming him, including Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; and a number of ministers.

Egypt: Mubarak Holds Talks With Israel's Netanyahu

NC1807085996 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0820 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has held a session of talks with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the Presidential Office.

The talks began with a closed working session confined to President Mubarak and Netanyahu.

Egypt: Mubarak, Israel's Netanyahu Resume Talks Over Lunch

NC1807120096 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1115 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak resumed his talks with

Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu over a lunch hosted by the president for Netanyahu and his delegation. Members of the Egyptian delegation taking part in the talks between Mubarak and Netanyahu also attended the lunch.

It was held at the Presidential Office following a joint news conference given by President Mubarak and the Israeli prime minister this afternoon.

Egypt: Cairo Dailies Assail Netanyahu on Eve of Visit

NC1807062596 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
2045 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—On the eve of Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's visit to Egypt, Cairo newspapers to be published tomorrow, Thursday [18 July], launch a strong attack on him and stress that his policy and proposals will plunge the region into the unknown because they do not provide for a genuine peace for all parties. The papers say that Netanyahu does not know the realities and history of the region and speaks of the future of the region as if he were an emperor and not a prime minister of a small state surrounded by Arab countries in all directions. The papers note that if Netanyahu was received with extreme hospitality in Washington, it is certain that he will not be received with the same hospitality and warmth in Cairo.

Echoing its rejection and unwelcome of the visit, AL-AKHBAR featured a sarcastic caricature by one of its most famous caricaturists. The caricature shows Netanyahu's vehicle heading to Egypt and a roadblock stopping the car with a sign in English "Entry Is Forbidden."

The opposition paper AL-WAFD publishes a statement by the Wafd Party denouncing the visit.

AL-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH devote their editorials to the visit and expectations of failure and success. The papers extend direct warnings to Netanyahu of the consequences of a retreat from the peace process.

Under the headline "Real Security and Peace," AL-AHRAM says that Netanyahu must have realized now the Arab position adopted at the Cairo summit, a position that is based on international legitimacy, the UN and Security Council resolutions, and the Madrid Conference. The paper says that Netanyahu also realizes that any deviation from these principles represents a step toward the unknown and is an unacceptable retraction. The paper underlines that the new situation that Netanyahu wants to impose will make the Arab

people reconsider the steps that have been taken and the steps that were hoped to be taken on the path of a permanent and fair peace.

AL-AHRAM warns that the real security that Israel demands can only be ensured through a real peace that recognizes the right of all parties to live in security and to enjoy a future of more prosperity and cooperation.

Under the headline "Netanyahu's Fallacies and Contradictions," AL-AHRAM chief editor Ibrahim Nafi' writes: Netanyahu makes a mistake when he believes that one party alone can control the fate of all the region's peoples and countries regardless of how strong it is. He notes that the ideas voiced by Netanyahu as a candidate for the prime minister's position are the same ones that he has continued to reiterate with some limited modifications since his victory. He says these reflect a mentality which makes Israel believe that it is the center of the world and makes him believe that he can achieve all his objectives even if they conflict with the objectives of others.

He adds: The Israeli prime minister believes that he can get everything that Israel wants without giving others anything in return. The problem with this type of self-centered thinking, which reflects a strong sense of egotism, is that such a person believes that he is the center of the world and therefore things in the world will not be set right if he does not get everything he wants even if the others do not get anything.

He goes on to say: Because people who think this way see nothing but themselves, they form an image of others as being so naive and weak as to accept anything proposed to them because they have no other option.

He notes that another unique characteristic of the mentality of Netanyahu and other self-centered persons like him is the belief in their ability to achieve conflicting objectives or, in other words, they are unable to understand the conflict between the objectives they set for themselves. He adds that Netanyahu believes that he is capable of achieving peace and security while keeping the Arabs' territories and of establishing normal relations with them. He describes this deluded ability to combine contradictions as a characteristic of the illogical and childish thinking that does not realize that everything has a price and that if you want to obtain something, you must give something else in return.

In his daily column "Mere Opinion" in AL-AHRAM, Salah Muntasir writes that Netanyahu has been full of arrogance since his election, which has only increased and intensified since he tested U.S. President Bill Clinton as soon as he became prime minister and found Clinton, as the saying goes, putty in his hands. He

adds: Clinton wanted to prepare for his meeting with Netanyahu in Washington and thought of sending Netanyahu one of his aides. But Netanyahu told Clinton that he would not receive any aide other than Christopher. Clinton could not resist this demand and did in fact send his secretary of state on a visit that had no meaning other than that of yielding to Netanyahu's orders. He then says: We are facing a new ruler in the region who is fuelled by the arrogance of power, the conceit of his young age, and the haughtiness that comes from knowing that the president of the world's greatest power needs him during the next four months when U.S. elections are held. He notes that what Netanyahu should understand during his visit to Egypt, the first visit that could be the last, is that Egypt is personally asking nothing from Israel but has something it can give to Israel. Otherwise no power can force Egypt to give warmth to the relations of peace with Israel. If Israel wants these relations to be cold or even severed, then Egypt will not disagree. The writer expresses his belief that President Mubarak has suppressed his feelings and agreed to receive Netanyahu for the sake of one objective, namely Egypt's Arab and international commitment and its feeling of the great responsibility that compels it to try to achieve security in the region.

In its editorial, AL-AKHBAR writes: There are a number of facts that Netanyahu should understand when he visits Egypt, one of them being that Egypt is interested in completing the Arab-Israeli peace process, which it started in the first place, in light of its pivotal role in the Arab world as its leader in the modern age in times of war and peace. Therefore it becomes useless to refer to or query the reasons for Egypt's interest in matters that do not specifically concern it. It adds: When Egypt signed the peace treaty with the Hebrew state, it was eager to sign it simultaneously with the Camp David treaty, which has the comprehensive and fair peace as its target so that any talk about its permanence would be reasonable. But any attempt to separate between the peace tracks is rejected because it will simply be against reason and logic. The paper stresses that if Netanyahu speaks about normal relations between Egypt and Israel, then he must understand that relations are not imposed by governments but sought out by the peoples.

In his "Good Morning" column in AL-AKHBAR, Sa'id Sunbul writes: If Netanyahu was received with unnatural warmth by U.S. congressmen during his recent visit to Washington, he will most certainly not be received with such warmth when he visits Egypt. If he heard words of praise and flattery from some congressmen seeking the Jewish votes during the election campaign, he will most certainly not hear

any such words in Egypt. The writer believes that the reason for the noticeable world interest in Netanyahu's victory was his assumption of Israel's leadership at a critical stage regarded as a historic turning point in the peace process begun by the Israeli Labor Party and not Netanyahu's personality itself. He says: He is not a peace hero or even a war hero. He adds: If Netanyahu believes that peace can be achieved without withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and south Lebanon, then he is deluded. If he believes that peace can prevail under the arrogance he is practicing with the Palestinian Authority and his non-recognition of the Palestinians' right to establish their independent state, then he is wrong. If he believes that the Arabs will relinquish Jerusalem, then this will never happen.

Under the heading "Netanyahu's Visit and Observations. Why James Baker Blamed Him," AL-JUMHURIYAH's chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari draws a parallel between Netanyahu's visits to Washington and Cairo. He says: Before his recent visit to the United States and meeting with the U.S. President, Netanyahu began to create a dramatic atmosphere full of ambiguity, excitement, concern, suspense, and expectation. It was like a full theatrical production of a one-chapter novel the plot of which revolves around introducing the novel's hero to the U.S. public beginning with their President Clinton and representatives, members of the Congress, and the rest of the U.S. people on television screens.

He notes that Netanyahu's visit to Cairo will be different. He says Netanyahu will meet and hold talks with President Mubarak but the issues and the stage will be different this time. In Washington, he says, Netanyahu was an American citizen who grew up and was educated there. Any U.S. citizen or official has a gut feeling that "this guest who comes as a prime minister of another country is one of our sons, an American citizen who managed to reach the pinnacle of power in a foreign country."

But here in Egypt, he adds, the situation is different because people cannot tolerate the naughtiness of "a former American citizen and cannot tolerate the coquetry and flirtation of a successful young man" who wants to establish leadership in a country whose historical and popular leadership has waned.

He says the issues in Egypt will deal with land, rights, peace, security for all on an equal footing, and constructive cooperation based on equality and respect for pledges, agreements, and contracts. Therefore and for other reasons, Netanyahu has to change the way the play is directed and the plot to create a favorable climate to help his mission in Egypt to succeed.

Under the heading "Listen Netanyahu," Samir Rajab, Chairman of AL-JUMHURIYAH's board of directors, writes: When he talks to us in Cairo, we advise Netanyahu to handle peace with understanding, wisdom, and sobriety if he truly seeks the interest of the Israelis who have been looking forward for stability since they came to our Arab land.

He adds: We warn Netanyahu that we will not accept any excessiveness in his statements. Rather we will regard such statements as a true indicator of his future moves. The writer refers to Netanyahu's previous remarks in Washington that he would say to the Americans what he said to the Israeli electorate and that he would flatter no one.

Rajab says: For our part, we emphasize to him that the relationship between him and the Israeli voter is his own affair and the affair of the voter. As far as we are concerned we have constants, treaties, and agreements for which we accept no substitute. Land for peace means land for peace and beating around the bush on this principle is rejected outright in form and content by our side.

He adds: Before boarding the plane to visit us, perhaps Netanyahu knows well our ideas, views, and stands. If he deviates from justice, we will not listen to him. If he tries to unjustly undermine what is right, let him alone pay the price. If he imagines that the Palestinian land is "far away" from its Syrian and Lebanese sisters, he will have written a certificate of failure for himself by himself.

Meanwhile, the AL-WAFD newspaper, mouthpiece of the New Wafd Party, publishes on its front page a statement by the party. The statement denounces Netanyahu's visit to Cairo and supports President Husni Mubarak in his struggle for a just peace. It emphasizes that oppressive force will not achieve Israel's security and that there is no alternative to Netanyahu's recognition of Arab rights.

The statement asserts that the peace process suffered a strong coup with the Likud group assuming power in Israel and absolving themselves of international norms and charters. The statement says Binyamin Netanyahu is taking advantage of the Israelis' recent psychological division to lead Israel to the quagmire of violence. Netanyahu, it said, is treading in the steps of Hitler, who was overwhelmed by vanity, haughtiness, and disparagement of others' power and whose fate came to an end with the destruction of his country after costing humanity 50 million lives.

The statement warns that Israel's new leader is beating the drums of war, not caring about the dangers of

destruction he is bringing to his people and the nations of the region and the world as a whole. It said that vain glory and arrogance prompted him to retreat from the pledges made by the previous government. By doing so, the statement adds, he establishes a serious principle encouraging others to follow the same path, a measure that subjects international legitimacy to chaos and precariousness.

Egypt: Commentary Says Cairo Visit 'New Chance' for Netanyahu

NC1707162096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "A New Chance for the Israeli Prime Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt will receive Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu tomorrow. During his brief visit, he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak about future relations between the two countries and future conditions in the region.

Although the Israeli prime minister's statement to a joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, in which he outlined future Israeli policies, was especially hardline regarding how the issues pertaining to the Middle East peace process should be handled, political leaders in Cairo are willing to listen to him again and to any new ideas. This Egyptian attitude comes in the wake of Netanyahu's meeting with U.S. leaders, who we do not believe welcomed the strong views he outlines.

We are certain that this visit will provide an opportunity to reassert the comprehensive Arab policy on peace, particularly as Cairo was recently the venue of a plenary Arab summit that elected President Mubarak as its representative and spokesman for its policies, giving him authorization to adopt the stands that he deems necessary and vital to boost the peace process in the Middle East and attain the stability that all the Arab nations want and seek to establish.

Hence, President Mubarak in his new Arab-authorized capacity will explain to the Israeli prime minister all the Arab options that can give impetus to the peace operation, which is viewed as a firm, strategic policy on which the Arabs agreed, as proclaimed in their Cairo summit communique. This communique dispelled all suspicions about that huge Arab concourse, which some propaganda machines portrayed as an Arab mobilization to besiege Israel and threaten its security. The outcome of the summit refuted all that false propaganda.

Perhaps the G-7 summit's communique, which stressed the need to stick to the relevant UN resolutions as points

of reference for the peace process and the land-for-peace principle, is a clear sign that the major powers now have a better understanding of the facts and are undistracted by the uproar raised by media controlled by global Zionist forces.

We do not deny that those media formerly succeeded in securing military, political, and economic backing for Israel. Even so, the Arabs, through good coordination, constant consultations, and clever objectivity, succeeded in containing these propaganda mouthpieces, refuted their allegations, and proved that they have lawful rights and are advocates of peace in addition to their wish to guarantee stability for all the region's nations, including the Israeli people.

The Arab leaders' intensive efforts to secure international commitment to the resolutions of the Madrid conference and support for the agreements signed with Shim'on Peres' government in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo will continue in a context of Arab coordination, whose foundations were laid at the Arab summit. This coordination will determine the framework of collective Arab cooperation with various international capitals. The Arab masses have urged their leaders to shoulder responsibility for confronting the Israeli no's with appropriate measures.

It is also certain that the Egyptian political leadership will present some facts to the new Israeli prime minister that he might have overlooked, in view of the fact that he is carrying out this political task for the first time. It will tell Netanyahu that Israeli security—which he spoke about with exaggerated enthusiasm during his election campaign—can be guaranteed without recourse to public posturing, if the issue is handled with wise, quiet diplomacy. The Arab leaders at the Cairo summit and the Arab public have shown their understanding of this Israeli request. Furthermore, half of the Israeli public demands peace and considers it indispensable now and in the future.

Doubtlessly the new Israeli leader has an opportunity to fulfill his electoral promise of Israeli security. This opportunity was provided to him by the Arabs during their final communique in Cairo, when they unanimously and publicly endorsed the land-for-peace principle. It is the only way to peace.

If anyone believes that security can be guaranteed by the occupation of further territories or clinging to territories already occupied, then he is wrong. History will judge him for his miscalculations, just as it did in Hitler's case. Because of Hitler, totally controlled by his vanity and determined to swim against the current, the German people suffered a defeat they did not deserve.

Egypt: Communique Issued on Musa's Visit to Moscow

NC1607211796 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2020 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Egypt and Russia have asserted the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on the Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace. This came in a communique released in Cairo and Moscow at the end of 'Amr Musa's visit to the Russian Federation today.

The two sides—Russia as a cosponsor of the peace process and Egypt as one of the key participants in this process—called on all participants in the negotiations, especially Israel, to step up their efforts to overcome the obstacles hampering the Arab-Israeli settlement process.

The Egyptian and Russian sides emphasized their commitment to reaching a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East, based on implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the principle of land for peace.

The two sides expressed their confidence that the Madrid conference and the progress of the peace process afterward have created a firm and principal foundation for progress in the Middle East settlement, which cannot be reconsidered. They also expressed their satisfaction with the stands adopted in this respect at the Cairo Arab summit and the Lyons summit. They called for fully implementing the Arab-Israeli agreements and moving toward a final settlement on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

The Egyptian and Russian sides called on all parties to adopt a constructive stance, to resume negotiations on all tracks based on the aforementioned principles, and to render them successful. They announced their absolute support for pursuing the Middle East peace process, with a view to reaching a just and comprehensive peace [salam] for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Amr Musa was accompanied on this visit by Ambassador Fathi al-Shadhili, assistant foreign minister for European affairs, and Ambassador Nabil Fahmi, the foreign minister's political adviser. Dr. Rida Shahatah, Egypt's ambassador in Russia, joined the delegation.

Libya

Libya: Paris Judge Discusses Plane Bombing With Top Officials

LD1807104896 Paris Radio France International
in French 0730 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Libyan authorities have given French antiterrorist Judge Bruguiere a case containing some explosive matter, pentrite. The case is identical to the one used in the September 1989 bomb attack on a UTA DC-10 aircraft.

The judge, who was accompanied by 10 or so police officers and several assistants, was able to meet with about 40 people, witnesses, or informers, including several members of Colonel al-Qadhafi's close circle such as Defense Minister [name indistinct]; Colonel Jabir, chief of staff of the armed forces; Justice Minister al-Hijazi; and intelligence chief Mr. Kusah. [names and titles as received]

After this visit of about 10 days, the feeling among those following up the inquiry and this recent mission is that Libya, strangled by the international embargo, seems determined to settle its dispute with Paris, although it still denies taking part as such in the bomb attack on the DC-10 aircraft and is reportedly ready to accept any decisions the French judiciary may take in connection with this case.

Tunisia

Tunisia: Opposition Leader Sentenced to 5 Years Imprisonment

LD1807090396 Paris Radio France International
in French 0730 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified announcer] In Tunisia, Tunisian opposition leader Khemaïs Chammari has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment by a chamber of the criminal court of the Court of Appeal in Tunis. The MDS [Movement of Socialist Democrats] deputy has been in detention since May. He was charged with divulging state secrets. Rida Boughezi reports:

[Boughezi] The first deputy to have been sentenced to imprisonment since the opposition entered the Tunisian parliament two years ago, Khemaïs Chammari is also the second leader of the MDS, the main opposition party, to have been sentenced to jail after the president of the movement Mohamed Moaada was sentenced to 11 years in prison on 29 February for sharing intelligence with a foreign country, namely Libya.

The two cases are closely linked because, according to the charge, Chammari has been indicted for divulging

judicial proceedings of the Moaada case. Chammari — who is married to lawyer Alya Cherif, who was a member of Moaada's defense — reportedly faxed secret documents about this case to a Belgian lawyer with the Brussels bar. According to the prosecution, the latter turned out to be an agent working for Libya.

Presumptuousness or a mere coincidence? The tribunal, whose composition was modified at the request of the lawyers, deemed the crime was sufficiently substantiated.

As for Chammari — who was able to speak for two hours in the course of the trial before representatives of Amnesty International, the International Federation of Human Rights, relatives, lawyers, journalists, and diplomats holding a post in Tunis — he has rejected the charges against him. He said there is a political aspect to his trial, connected with his activities as a politician and human rights activist.

[Announcer] Chammari is one of the main founding members of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights. He was defended by about 30 lawyers yesterday.

The president of the bar and Chammari himself have praised the way the debates were conducted during the trial.

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: UN Envoy—No Compromise Between Morocco, Polisario Thus Far

LD1707193796 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] UN special envoy Erik Jensen has given the following statement to

radio correspondent Ahmed Sokou at the beginning of which he talked about the contents of his meeting with Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf.

[Jensen, in French with superimposed Arabic translation] *You know that the UN Security Council has recently endorsed a resolution which suggested a number of proposals. Within this framework, a report will be submitted before next August to the Security Council.*

As is customary, the United Nations attempts to keep contacts open between the countries of region, including Algeria. This was the reason why I was received by the foreign minister. We discussed outstanding issues and what should be done to solve them.

[Announcer] Regarding the initiatives which the United Nations might perform in the future to revive the Saharan voters' identification process, Mr. Jensen said:

[Jensen] *What we have carried out on this matter is administrative work. As you know, the United Nations is suffering from a financial crisis, but UN employees are always ready to return to the region to complete the mission. We have the documents and the archives to resume the work. The task I am carrying out with my team is to get a proposed compromise solution from the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] and Morocco for achieving progress in the voters' identification process, but we have not yet reached that.*

[Announcer] Concerning a question as to whether the United Nations had called for the establishment of a direct dialogue between the Polisario Front and Morocco, Mr. Erik Jensen said:

[Jensen] *This proposal was made by Algeria in particular, but Morocco has so far not agreed to it. Anyway, we will submit a report to the Security Council before the end of August.*

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Prince Sultan Says Plan To Transfer Military Units Proceeding

LD1707213296 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz has affirmed that the Kingdom is a strong state with a security base which is the envy of many countries. He added that security and peace are available not only "for our American friends but for all our guests, brothers, and friends who reside on every inch of our soil from which God has banned every aggressor until Kingdom come." His highness warned that anyone who undermines Saudi security should be punished in compliance with Islamic shari'ah.

In replying to a question put by the MBC [London-based Saudi-backed TV station], his highness reaffirmed that Saudi-U.S. relations are firm and strong, pointing out that the understanding between the two friendly governments is complete. He noted that the UN [as heard] plan to transfer a few thousand military forces is proceeding. He expressed surprise about reports carried by tendentious media that there is a Saudi decision not to transfer or change bases of military units stationed in the kingdom — be they French, U.S., or British — in implementation of UN [as heard] resolutions.

Saudi Arabia: CDLR Warns of 'War' Against U.S. Presence

MM1707155796 London CDLR MONITOR in Arabic 17 Jul 96 pp 1-3

[Part 2 of article from Bulletin No. 106 issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, CDLR, received by fax on 17 July: "News and Comments: The al-Khubar Blast"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 9. The Al Sa'ud's oil policy — which is praised by the United States for its realistic and rational approach — is a criminal, treasonous policy. In the late 70's and early 80's, on the orders of their U.S. masters, the Al Sa'ud increased oil production and flooded the markets in an attempt to tighten the noose on Iran and bring it to its knees. This obscene increase in production was justified neither by the laws of supply and demand nor by market forces and requirements. Also, the country did not need the revenues from this increase, the lion's share of which went to the usurious Western banking system, thus giving the capitalist cliques controlling it more power to exploit and humiliate the peoples of the Islamic world in particular, and of the Third World in general, and to oppress even the working classes in the West. Some of it went into the pockets of the Al Sa'ud to bankroll

their sin and filth. As always, the nation's share was only crumbs. Indeed, this policy did serious damage to the Islamic nation in general, and Iran in particular, but did not achieve the topmost objective of the Al Sa'ud cretins, namely to prop up the throne and hang on to the monarchy, because this obscene increase broke the back of the oil market and weakened OPEC by causing a collapse of oil prices, forcing the Al Sa'ud to draw on the reserves and fall into the abyss of debts, which rocked their throne and is now threatening their monarchy. To make matters worse, they had to finance the Iraq-Iran war, which brought ruin on to everyone and particularly the Al Sa'ud and in which the only winner was the colonialist superpower, which siphoned off the interests, got rid of old military equipment, and used the Muslims' land and their sons' bodies to experiment with new weapons. It also laid the cornerstone of the next turmoil, the Kuwait turmoil, which ended with the Arabs' and Muslims' defeat and the destruction of Iraq and forced everyone to prostrate themselves in front of Israel. The Al Sabah "dwarfs" did not learn from the Al Sa'ud giants' blatant mistake. They tried the same failed policies in the late eighties and increased production to embarrass Iraq and bring it to its knees, and, as a further stupidity, they sold their Iraqi debts to the international, and particularly the Italian, banks and violated Iraq's oil rights in the al-Rumaylah field. However, their evil double-dealing backfired on them, and their situation changed from wealth and huge surplus to debts and budget deficits, from relative security to constant fear and worry, from independence, albeit fictitious, to direct U.S. dependency. The Al Sa'ud and the Al Sabah are digging their own graves! These cretins are still not aware of what The United States has in store for them: The "end of service award" given to every agent, namely total liquidation!

10. The blast has had deep repercussions in U.S. political circles. Some U.S. popular circles, and some Zionist circles, as well as a third category linked to other colonialist and intelligence interests have begun to fight each other, in a complex manner, in line with the complexities of the current election campaign. There are those who are demanding a complete U.S. withdrawal, and there also those who are making demands to stop treating the Al Sa'ud like a spoilt child and to become tougher and harder with them. U.S. media organs have started to scrutinize the Al Sa'ud files and publicize their scandals. The Al Sa'ud's Ambassador Bandar Bin-Sultan was subjected to the toughest media inquiries and investigations, and presented a very bad image. The ideal image projected by the Al Sa'ud's hired media evaporated, and thousands of billions of dollars spent for this purpose were wasted. Everyone was surprised at the fact that the four suspects in the Riyadh blast were

never fully interrogated, and at the speed with which their execution was carried out! Is this meant to terrorize the public, or is it intended to cover up the internal struggles between the Al Sa'ud family branches? Some U.S. circles have openly accused 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and his branch. These people wondered with surprise about the fact that neither the British nor the French forces suffered what the Americans were subjected to! There is a determination among the American people and among Congress circles to have a full investigation this time, and to make those who will be arrested in this affair stand trial in the United States! This would delight the suspects, and would spell disaster for the Al-Sa'ud! Some other circles, however, have stressed that Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz will not allow this to happen, and has indeed given orders to kill any suspect in bogus "exchange of fire" incidents. And why not? The Egyptian experts — who are masters of this technique — are available to him and at his command. For a long time they have been extolling this to him, and "His Highness" has constantly been hesitating, not because he does not want to be ruthless, but because he is afraid of opening a Pandora's box. However, now that he is cornered, and has no other way out, he has lost his senses and has started to look for ways to dig his own grave. "The evil plot encloseth but the men who make it" [Koranic verse].

11. The London INDEPENDENT newspaper conducted a very interesting interview with brother mujahid Usamah Bin-Ladin at his new headquarters in Afghanistan, in which he stressed that the U.S. military presence in particular and the Western presence in general are illegal and cannot be accepted in any way. He said that these forces are at war with the Muslims, and that they are killing Muslim children in Iraq and Palestine, and advised everyone to leave before it is too late. He explained that enmity and fighting were not directed against the peoples in the West, but against the colonial-

ist and Zionist clique in control there. Although political analysts consider these to be statements by a wise politician who has nothing to do with the previous blasts, they nevertheless constitute a warning that Muslims, and especially those who consider brother Usamah their leader, will soon declare war. These constitute the majority of Arab mujahidin who participated in the Afghan jihad.

Saudi Arabia: Defense Minister on Threats, Safety of American Troops

*NC1707185796 London MBC Television in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive statement to MBC, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and defense and aviation minister, described some western media's reports of threats received by British and French military units deployed under the UN flag as ridiculous. He asserted that Saudi Arabia is a stable state and that anyone who harms Saudi security will be punished in accordance with Islamic shari'ah. He said:

[Begin recording] First, the question I was asked two days ago was: Have you moved the American citizens living in cities to other sites. The answer is that safety is assured for Americans and non-Americans inside the kingdom. As to the plan to move a limited number of troops, between 3,000 and 4,000, like the United Nations does, to somewhere else or to a base, there is full understanding between us and the U.S. Administration. Saudi Arabia, as represented by its Armed Forces, is as much concerned about the safety of every foreigner as it is concerned about its own personnel. Hence, the tententious U.S. press reports on a decision not to move the military units, whether American, British, French, or others, are untrue. There is full cooperation between us and the U.S. Administration. [end recording]

Iraq: Saddam Speech on 28th Anniversary of 17-30 Jul Revolution

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in Arabic 0705 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Speech by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the 28th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great people, the people of July, al-Qadisiyah, and the Mother of Battles, O people of the eternal Mesopotamia, zealous ones in our valiant Armed Forces, O Arab mujahidin and strugglers, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. We celebrate today, in the Iraq of jihad, heroism, and freedom, the passage of 28 years of honorable glory and achievements. This pleases those who struggled for their achievements or interacted with them. We receive the 29th year of its triumphant march full of feelings of strength, optimism, and confidence, God willing. We celebrate your great revolution, the national, pan-Arab, socialist, faithful, young, mujahid, wise, brave, and sacrificing 17-30 July Revolution.

When we recall the beginnings of the revolution which were full of dangers and struggle to make unmatched achievements, along with adherence to principles, throughout this time, we feel full of pride for all the meanings of these achievements, because they are the characteristics of the genuine revolution and revolutionaries who do not compromise on the meanings of their struggle and aspirations in the interest of their people and nation.

O Iraqis, our nation's mujahidin and strugglers, your revolution is young and full of wisdom, self-confidence, and courage after relying on God, the merciful the compassionate.

O lofty Iraqi men and glorious men, you know the meaning of keeping your revolution on its track because you possess all its details. You also know the significance of maintaining the same level of enthusiasm its strugglers had at the moment of its inception. This is if we do not say higher and deeper than this. You are also aware of the significance of keeping your revolution young and experienced despite the passage of 28 years on its inception on 17-30 July 1968.

Despite the international and regional circumstances we are facing, as well as the many developments and changes; as an expression by the revolution of its genuine principles and an expression of the wisdom, maturity, and courage of its leaders; and despite all the extraordinary circumstances faced by Iraq, you have successively done the most important things you should

do in this field. You did this as a duty and a right dictated by struggle and as a unique responsibility under certain regional and international circumstances.

You carried out three major practices between July 1995 and July 1996: The Great March Day on 15 October 1996, the National Assembly elections on 24 March 1996, and the election of local people's councils on 30 May 1996. What you did in playing your role and fulfilling your conscious, genuine struggle responsibility on the Great March Day in particular was an absolutely unique situation in the history of mankind. This was an expression of holding fast to beliefs and of the genuine pledge and level of determination to pursue efforts against all miserable and deluded villains who had imagined that they could give a different picture of the heroic Iraqi people and of the proud homeland.

In the past year of the glorious age of the revolution, you confronted and foiled the major part of the slogans of the villains and their sick allegations and imaginations, which unashamedly and publicly got in full swing in August 1995. By doing this and other things, you exposed what is declared and what is not, thanks to your capability. Thus, its foul and malicious smell came into the open. But the waves of your high sea discarded these slogans on the shore to become food for crows and other predators.

Pursuant to its cowardly and miserable political, intelligence, and military action that is part of the chapters of its plots, the enemy carried out other activities and made statements to hurt your economy, hoping to drive you toward despair. However, after relying on God, your sons everywhere, led by state officials, sons, and glorious women, rolled up their sleeves to adjust to the situation, particularly in the field of our national economy, to make it active, capable, and appropriate for this stage, in light of the principles of our message to the Council of Ministers on 2 December 1995.

The country's economy improved tangibly despite the continuation of the embargo. Consequently, the standard of many economic and services activities improved and the value of the dinar increased to more than what it was on 2 December 1995 and a little after that date. Under conventional accounting, it looked like imagination. Still, we picked its real fruits a few months after the day [2 December 1995] of the message.

Also in this field, just as in others, the Iraqis proved more and more that they are a great people; a people of special ability not only in the field of fighting and jihad face to face with the evil enemy, or the field of construction when its requirements are made available, but also in the field of reconstruction through the creation of appropriate substitutes in most difficult

circumstances and also in the field of prudence. Once again, on this great day, we call upon government officials to show zeal that is needed by the people and the nation in action and prudence. We address the same call to the vanguards of the people, and Iraqi women in particular.

On the level of international relations, the world witnessed this year many manifestations which predict a relative awakening in the spirit of independence and tendency toward getting rid of the call for hegemony which the United States seeks and which is practiced by some of its symbols in the United Nations or in the general arena of international politics under other facades and names. In fact, this awakening has emerged clearly on the international level in the form of activities, slogans, and policies in Europe, Asia, and Latin America which stem from the feeling of anxiety and disgust with U.S. policy's whims and tendency toward hegemony, evil, and domination. All this would not have taken place, had it not been for the involvement of the United States and its collaborators in the 30-state aggression on Iraq, the call for continuous aggression, the actual practice of this aggression in the two repeated attacks on 17 January 1993 and 26 June 1993, the odious so-called lines of latitude in the Iraqi air space in the north and the south, the imposition and continuation of the unfair embargo, and the other attempts which every time approached the brink of military clash with glorious and heroic Iraq.

Serious transformations in the world indicate that there are phenomena that we hope will reflect positively on world politics and respect for international law, providing genuine peace for peoples whose policies will be formulated collectively or in accordance with the group spirit and on good intentions. This peace will be established on equitability, freedom, justice, independence, and respect for sovereignty. Its basis will always be respect for the UN Charter. This charter should not be burdened or forged by resolutions through the opportunism, intimidations, or money of this or that international quarter, in cooperation with those with narrow outlooks and illegitimate interests, or with the help of the resources of this or that regional quarter. Then will the call for peace become genuine and well-meaning. Otherwise, the call for peace will become a cover for hegemony, oppression, slavery, and exploitation which we will continue to reject and to raise our banner against those who expound it or who use pressure to adopt it.

The United States of America, along with those who support its disgusting policies, last year and in previous years, tried to bring issues to the point of confrontation or to force a compromise over sovereignty or national honor, through well-known sides who implemented its

decisions which were called UN Security Council resolutions. They wanted them implemented in accordance with terms and formulas which even these infamous resolutions did not include.

However, these evil attempts failed to realize their illegitimate objectives after issues almost reached the point of confrontation. The first basic cause of foiling these attempts was your splendid steadfastness and determination to defend your rights, honor, and sovereignty, O glorious Iraqi men and women. The second cause is a careful consideration of matters, developments, and results by certain international quarters.

O glorious Iraqi men and women. We have always relied on your awareness, patience, firmness, principles, and readiness. We will continue to rely on you to complete the remaining part of our march on the road of your great steadfastness and brave struggle. The (Arab) nation and humanity also need your steadfastness and the continuation of the greatness of your triumph and your great human and pan-Arab model. This year, we will continue our contacts with certain international circles and will call on everyone to develop their positions toward what is right to serve stability in the region and the world. Lifting the blockade will top the needs of our great people and the requirements of the region's correct stability and balance in order to realize reassurance on this basis.

O friends in the world, those who love freedom, independence, and legitimate stability in human society, you recall how some known international powers, including the United States, used to raise and are still raising slogans, and openly call on the countries of the southern hemisphere to develop their capabilities and resources on the pretext of saving them from backwardness, poverty, and deprivation. However, when Iraq developed its capabilities and resources and exploited this development and the oil funds in serving development and national awakening, and in restructuring man's abilities and qualifying him, those who advocated the same slogans which showed dissatisfaction with the backwardness in the southern hemisphere and all the Third World countries massed against Iraq, under the United States' command, all the forces of evil and sick people, to attack it with the bombs, missiles, and armies of the 30-state aggression. This took place after they had already issued a series of resolutions against it. These resolutions include imposing a blockade on it regarding all life's needs in the air, at sea, and on land.

Brothers and friends, our battle in the southern hemisphere is mainly the battle of the people of the southern hemisphere for freedom, independence, prosperity, and just rights. Iraq had spoken of and carried out what all

freedom lovers and nationalists in the southern hemisphere always dreamed of. Those whose conditions or resources do not allow them cannot do the same. So that none of you will be deceived by some sides' claims, you should recall that the United States called for boycotting Iraq technologically in early 1990, meaning before August 1990. The United States also canceled the grain deal with Iraq on 28 February 1990. This date is also before August 1990. A basic part of its steadfastness constitutes a real defense line for you. Had it not been for Iraq's steadfastness, the United States' appetite for aggression would have spread in many parts of the world, for any weak wall that collapses before it will stimulate its greed for destroying more national fabrics, strongholds, or freedom cells in the southern hemisphere and the whole world.

O Arab strugglers everywhere, O sons of our glorious nation, some Arab rulers called for a meeting in Cairo without Iraq. They set an agenda for this meeting. The most important topic on this agenda was conceding to Zionism in advance things which the Arabs had rejected since the usurpation of Palestine. At least when Arab officials used to meet in the past they could say nothing other than what is close to the convictions that are entrenched in the conscience of the people in the countries of the greater Arab homeland.

Thus, the method of the opportunists was repeated in order to push the conferees into a situation where they would adopt hasty individualistic stands that stem from their weakness on this serious cause. Once again, the narrow-minded called for such stands in order to cover their own nudity by forcing others to tear off their clothes rather than borrowing a blanket from them until the weakness becomes a state of power or until a better opportunity arises at a later stage.

Once again, the behavior of those who call on the conferees to fall into hell or into the abyss of evil by adopting individualistic stands, remind us of the behavior of those who used to weaken in prison or under interrogation in the days of underground struggle. They did not show enough consciousness when they tried to make the conferees weaken like them in the hope that everyone would fall under the same bad description, which would give them a false sense of satisfaction.

But, what we just said occurred among ordinary citizens; mainly, young men and students from preparatory schools, colleges, and institutes, while those who met in Cairo last June are kings, crown princes, and presidents of well-known age. At that meeting, those who received the signal from Washington, called on Iraq to stop its threats against its neighbors. Once again, the rigid stand, which preceded the August 1990 incidents

and immediately afterward and stemmed from the logic of talking about other people's behavior and forgetting one's own behavior and shortcomings, was repeated. They called on Iraq to stop its aggressiveness and provocation against its Arab neighbors, as they said.

Meanwhile, those wise men forgot how Iraq is being attacked daily by them or their masters from foreign military bases inside the Arab homeland, and how tens of thousands of children, men, and women are dying as a result of the embargo, which they decided or adopted after their masters had approved it and is still continuing despite the end of the claim about what used to be called aggression against Kuwait. They also forget how U.S. and British aircraft are taking off daily from the land of Najd in order to violate Iraqi air space and to miserably seek to divide Iraq under the fictitious lines which Washington has marked for Iraqi air space in the hope of fulfilling its damned evil dreams.

On more than one occasion, we warned that the policy of ability and opportunity or mere technical ability should not prevail in inter-Arab relations or replace the good and genuine legacy without observing what is legitimate and what is not, and what is right and what is wrong.

If such a policy is adopted by those who have the money or who are able to deceive and mobilize the so-called international organizations against this or that party, for instance, the capable ones will then seek other means to seize the opportunity. Many criteria will then be lost or absented. Stability and a kind of reassuring steadiness in inter-Arab relations will also be absented. Therefore, there is no better criterion than right to expose falsehood. There are no better models than those of the great history of our nation. There is no better religious reference richer than that found in its historical, cultural, and spiritual heritage. Thus, all the good offices find their way to a fruitful end, while the evil efforts sink in their abyss without any interference, claim, or denial.

Some Arab rulers with ill intentions met in Cairo, along with others who came without premeditated ill intentions against the people of Iraq. The evil ones even met there to act not only against the people of Iraq, but also against all the free Arabs and against their aspirations and principles. As they met there, each brought along his own weakness and malice, or potential and aspiration. Some of them waved a bag of money in the face of those they wanted to tempt into such shameful stands, or brandished the stick of the foreigner against those who feared such stands—although they themselves seek the protection of this stick—in order to remain silent over or accept what others want.

While all these bargains were going on during the Cairo meeting or prior to it, the interest of the peoples or the nation was not among the things they took into consideration. At that gathering, there were many of those who had ill intentions against the people of Iraq. However, each of the conferees had his own special and well-known characteristic and a particular level of readiness to make a certain sacrifice if the situation warrants in order to tell the truth and defend it.

Instead of discussing and answering some urgent questions that are in the mind and conscience of the nation, and instead of helping elevate the nation to what God wanted it to be, the lowly ones preferred to pursue the path of their machinations against the free men of the nation and against the heroic people of Iraq of glory, pride, dignity, and virtue. Iraq today stands as the most noble of the nation's emblems that point to its jihad, struggle, spirit, ability in seeking to attain legitimate hopes and to construct. They sank deep in the trench of humiliation in the name of the so-called quest for a collective stand which some people said would force key figures in the present Zionist entity administration to accept peace with the Arabs. They deceive themselves into believing that in doing so, they are hiding the shameful stands of those who adopted them, including the hasty unilateral position adopted by those who took or plan to take a stand of weakness and humiliation toward the Zionist entity and the United States.

Hence, the collective position which some tendentious people wanted other Arab rulers to adopt as well. This position implies acceptance of surrender in advance and contains demands which, they believe, would cover up for them, even partially, with regard to certain issues to coexist with the Zionist entity, which usurped Arab, Muslim, and Christian sanctities, lands, and rights.

This is their policy, which is one of changing slogans overnight because of the inability to proceed or because of premeditated ill intentions. This policy also changes the meanings of honor by floating its standards and replaces firm positions by the colors of the rainbow. No Arab or Muslim has the honor to be part of this policy or its stands. So how can this policy be acceptable to those who represent the great people of Iraq, who belong to their glorious nation. This belonging is marked by struggle and jihad. All the sons of the nation know the level and quality of this belonging and the sacrifices made for it.

O Arabs, sons of our glorious Arab nation: Lofty wishes and resolve characterize the believers. Any reality that is not consistent with this is an outcome of weakness, failure, or a fall into the abyss, due to ruinous, humiliating subservience.

Once again, in Cairo, those who were weak before themselves, their devils, and masters expressed what is inside their hearts, having become subservient and submissive stooges. Those who have innocent intentions are free of blame for the blood of strugglers in the nation and the blood of the great people of Iraq. Those people have our appreciation and love.

Those who met in Cairo did not learn a lesson from their past experience and from the stands of the glorious people of the nation in their countries throughout the past six years, which rejected falsehood and championed justice. Thus, those who met in Cairo did not change. Their hearts had no zeal and their consciences did not awake. Those people did not give any attention or regard to the anger of the wounded people of Palestine and the anger of a nation that was stabbed in the heart of its principles after it leaned on a poisoned blade. This was done deliberately to the nation by some of its rulers to kill the hopes of the nation and its great meanings. But their plans failed miserably. Our nation has held its ground like a great spear and lofty mountain. The nation cherishes great and lofty meanings and stands, and fears God alone.

O Arab strugglers and Mujahidin. Your Iraqi people and leadership have always been as you know them and as God has wanted them to be. On their forehead, you can read the banner Allahu Akbar [God is great]. You can see them building and raising the facades, struggling, and raising slogans of high values. They have not been defiled by weak stands or compromises, God forbid. Therefore, Iraq was not represented at the Cairo gathering. Yet we appreciate those who pointed out the truth there or those who headed for the truth in various degrees.

The great Iraqi people are aware of those with good intentions. They are aware of the complicated circumstances in which they were placed. As for the silent ones who should have spoken, they are unlike those who head directly for evil and its symbols, unless they deserve the epithet of dumb Satans. And so will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

God be praised for the wisdom he bestowed upon us, making us reject this evil, and for the power he has given us to refuse to submit to those who try to intimidate us and who have forced others to submit after they hesitated for tactical reasons.

Brothers, glorious Iraqi women, free Arabs. Those who adopted this evil trend at the Arab rulers meeting in Cairo to gain dominance should ask themselves: What will our people, their people, and the nation to which they claim to belong say about them? What will the

nation's people tell them after they hear their statement and their resolutions — or, in fact, the resolutions that the Washington government wanted? If they belonged to this nation and if they felt ashamed of their acts, they would not have done what they did. Those concerned with this meeting used the skulls of the free Arabs as stepping stones to make themselves taller. They used the skulls of Iraqi children and elderly as stepping stones to trample the nation's dignity, thinking that they can avoid the dangers of the sweeping flood and the flaming fire that is burning under their feet—a fire that is caused by their own peoples.

Again they became prey to their illusions, again they missed the right path, the path of safety. They missed the reassurance and confidence imparted by a sincere, pan-Arab conscience. They missed God's reward in this life, which precedes the rewards in the hereafter.

Reassurance and contentment can only come from choosing the right path and adhering to its standards and aims. There can be no reassurance unless the people and the nation are regarded as the crown of the ruler, the aim of his search for good deeds, and his support during crises. No support can be derived from the protection of the foreigners.

Based on this, we can understand why the Arabs, particularly the Arab Muslims, in their glorious history, viewed the minority and majority, sometimes, not based on number. They have always differentiated between the struggler and mujahid select few that represent the overwhelming majority's stands and efforts and the minority that seizes the overwhelming majority's share of the gains; between the elite few that lead ranks to exemplify sacrifice and the minority that is isolated in dark caves to suck the people's blood and to become rich at their expense; between the creative select few that represent the conscience of the people and the nation and the ruling minority that puts the people's necks under the tyranny of the foreigner and the nation's sanctities under the feet of the invaders; between a select few that defend the nation and serve as an example of justice, good deeds, and patriotism, and a minority that serve as agents to the foreigner, hiding in trenches, lost among ranks.

The faithful Arab strugglers and mujahidin have also differentiated between the enlightened and mujahid select few which adheres to right and struggle and a weak, helpless, or hesitant overwhelming majority. Therefore, the standard of the Arab strugglers is not how many Arab rulers meet in this or that place, or the statements that they issue at this or that time. The standard is: Which Arab ruler really represents his people at present and in the past? How does he deal with

the future? Will they issue something that represents the nation's conscience? What is the stand of someone who meets or issues a statement or resolutions on the requirements of power so that our nation will be as it should be — a nation of principles, message, and civilization? What is the stand toward the poor of the nation and the people throughout the Arab homeland and in every single country? What is the stand toward the aggressive Zionism and the U.S. policy, which is tyrant in words and deeds, against the nation of prophets whose territories have been occupied? What is the stand toward the armies of the foreigner that move freely on the land of holy places? How they will actually return Jerusalem and the usurped land to their people, not by paying lip service? This is in addition to many known things.

The sons of our nation can no longer be deceived by what some Arab rulers have used to deceive them. These rulers took this as a profession after they accepted humiliation to the foreigner and Zionism.

Brothers, some known Arab rulers have recently come up with strange concepts. These include casting doubts on the ability of peoples and nations to achieve independence and to protect their independence at the time of big powers in the world. This is in addition to the United States plans to subjugate the world, beginning with the Arab nation and its resources. These also include misconceptions about minority and majority, their roles, and influence. Serious misconceptions have also prevailed, to the effect that the majority, which is the people or the nation, is impotent in front of the foreigner's power, desires, and plans.

At the same time, these misconceptions have imagined that it is possible for the factional, dominant, and isolationist or isolated minority to replace the majority, which has the legitimate right. On many occasions, the concept of minority is compressed to mean that the ruler and his collaborators or his faction must replace the people or the nation. We know that Arab history is full of model situations of struggle and jihad, where the select few represented the majority in the best possible manner. Thus, in certain basic aspects of life, the substance of our nation's aspiration was represented by the emissaries and prophets and the heavenly mission entrusted to them, each within his own period.

The holy Prophet Muhammad, may the peace and blessings of God be upon him, represented the nation alone and his companions represented it collectively; and, Jesus son of Maria, may peace be upon him, also represented the nation alone and his companions represented it collectively in the best possible manner, each within his own period. Today, any citizen or ruler

in the nation can represent the whole nation in all or some situations, if his stand conforms with the nation's standards, meanings, and higher interests.

However, there is a basic and great difference in quality between these brilliant examples and what is sought by some Arab rulers and those who deviated with them. In examples of weakness and evil, they wanted the minority, which does not represent the conscience and values of the nation or the rulers when they are in a state of weakness and lassitude, to replace the people and the nation. But, in the examples of power and brilliance that we just referred to, the intention is to make the select few, in certain special circumstances, represent the majority, the nation, and the people once it has reflected the values and aspirations of the majority and assumed on their behalf the burden of the model situation in the difficult circumstances, with all the sacrifices and qualifications that are demanded on the basis of viewpoint, intention, and position.

On this basis, a ruler in Cairo, or a struggler citizen in the Egyptian countryside or in the land of Najd and Hejaz, or any part of the great Arab homeland can represent or act on behalf of a ruler in any other Arab country or even replace him when he withholds action or becomes hesitant over any national or pan-Arab stand that is faithful to the nation and the people, or when he stands against the interest of the people and the nation. By the same token, a ruler in Cairo and in the land of Najd and Hejaz will be close to the people of Cairo and the people of Najd and Hejaz. He will not be representing the people and the nation when he does not consider the interests of the nation and people or stands against them, or when he is on call to serve the foreigner.

Throughout their glorious history, the Arabs have made a clear distinction between the symbols of a factional minority, the select few who constitute the struggler vanguard, and the faithful majority of the people. They also made a distinction between an emergency situation and a lasting situation and between representation and replacement. However, they have not made the special situation, in which the select few can display greater ability in representing the majority in certain special stands, a substitute for the role of the majority under normal conditions.

These were the qualities of leadership and decisionmaking. They include both the objective and subjective, regarding the requirements of the sense of responsibility and its meanings. All this is accompanied by what is necessary in order to grant confidence to the ruler or leader based on genuine pledge and independent opinion. They have always made the people's majority, par-

ticularly the faithful one, the constant and general standard of all the banners, including the slogans and banners of the minority.

As for our current stage, some Arab rulers tried in vain to change these concepts and our nation's glorious history in order to generalize the narrow meaning of minority on the majority, believing that they could quell the majority. They exaggerated this misconception to a point where some of them gave his state the name of minority instead of the name of the majority and its meanings.

O faithful brothers, the Arabs, rulers and strugglers, should have in mind that leadership qualities and genuine decisionmaking have always stemmed from a genuine pledge and independent opinion. This happens when the people are in control of the pillars of their fate, and the foreigner, his armies, influence, funds, plans, and wickedness are outside the border of any country. Money should only serve the objectives of God and be used the way God's prophets dealt with it. Belief in the possibility of replacing the majority with the minority, the people and the nation with the ruler, and the mujahidin and strugglers with satellites indicates shortsightedness. Those who have practiced this have realized that they are worthless. Consequently, they began to feel estrangement and fear of the present and the future and of the known and unknown alike. They also began to feel insecure. Faith abandoned them when they abandoned its teachings, objectives, and methods, which are the result of the sanctity of the stand, including the burning log of faith, which is achieved by the energy of the feeling of representing the majority, its approach and its stand appropriately and in a way that pleases God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The most serious thing that currently faces the nation, after the feeling of impotence and weakness toward the difficulties of life and struggle, is the state of the minority, which seeks to replace the majority without showing worthiness or special traits. Some rulers are at the top of this minority. The seriousness of adhering to this misconception lies in many points, including summoning the foreigner whenever there is a problem between the ruler and his people or between one ruler and another. In light of this, some sides began shamelessly dealing with the foreigner as if he is their benefactor before God, may God save us from that, or as if he possesses them and the will and decision of their people.

A glance is enough for us to know what is taking place among the ranks of Arab rulers. This includes the conduct of these rulers at the recent gathering in Cairo. This gathering reminds us of what happened

regarding the nation's aspirations and its relations and also regarding Iraq in 1990.

Thus, with the passage of time and allowing evil to overcome good or with failure and weakness in achieving the correct positions, the one who has fallen into the abyss of imagining that he represents the minority—after failing to gain the majority's support for his positions—will only represent himself. Rather, he only represents the interests of his masters.

Regardless of the declared positions, the closest thing to these masters' suspect interests is submission and attempting to dominate this minority and its anxiety and weakness, or its feeling of weakness and its narrow vision. This applies to the positions of some rulers vis-a-vis the positions of the majority of people in the world, including our glorious nation and the people of the countries these rulers belong to or rule.

In order to save the nation from falling into these abysses, the zealous sons of our nation—and even those who deviated and erred among the rulers or other ranks who have not yet despaired of the mercy of God and the people—have only to return to the pure origin of our nation's glorious history. The meanings of this history gave rise to the march of the glorious July revolution. The march carried the banner, guided by this revolution, and drew the faith from it until it became satisfied with faith, with self-confidence, and with trust in the nation and people, along with sufficient capability, courageous faith, and amity that can accommodate the whole mankind without grudge. The satisfaction with the feeling and action at present and in the future does not only apply to the sons of our nation, after relying on God, who has great capability and who is merciful and compassionate.

O mujahidin and strugglers, O vanguards of the nation and its rising dawn, God willing: One of the most important meanings in the nation's struggle and jihad is that the faithful, sacrificing, and steadfast minority—at the moment of decision—should believe that it is right. This minority represents the majority after it places itself in the place of the one who has in his conscience—in deeds, not only in words—the reflections of all the majority's noble aspirations, goals, and objectives.

In order for this minority to be described as such under difficult circumstances, its principles, values, and high meanings should represent the majority, which, at the moment, is absent from the scene of the correct, rectifying action or action to achieve its goals. This can generalize the positions and meanings of the faithful, steadfast, and sacrificing minority; or the minority that is moving forward in the fighting, struggle, jihad, or construction; or the minority that is taking up a position

behind the retreating ones in order to defend and safeguard them under difficult circumstances; or the minority that rises up to defend chastity under other circumstances; or the minority in its steadfastness when only a few people stand fast; or the minority in giving opinions when there is confusion in views; or the minority in offering and generosity when the situation so requires; or the minority in advocating boldness when the majority advocates retreat or reluctance; or the minority in advocating principles and awareness when the majority advocates weakness.

Thus, the minority will be a model for the majority, and their values will be adopted by the majority later, when they receive sound guidance or restore their consciousness. Then there will not be anything to distinguish between the minority and the majority, except for values, stands, and characteristics. The feeling of the minority, when they know how few they are, will become as if they were the majority, and the feeling of the majority toward the minority will not be one of hatred and looking for a chance to take revenge, but that of love for the self-denying ones and the models of innovation in the scientific, technical, practical, and theoretical fields.

Starting with ourselves, we call on the children of our nation to follow this course. We have followed this course and will always do until God decides to give our glorious nation—the nation of the messages—freedom, independence, justice, and progress. Then, love will prevail and replace hatred. Through this feeling, the majority will help the minority, and the minority will help the majority. If any of the two sides goes ahead of the other, then that will be a deserved advancement by virtue of their character and action to represent the will of the majority, which God has promised to support. Then, the nation's unnecessary losses will be turned into glorious sacrifices in the right field, where the enemies and the devil-supported ones are to be confronted, or when the deserving majority or the pioneering minority clash with their unworthy rulers. If the majority in sheer number clash with the minority in sheer number or the different color, then blood, names, and titles will be lost in trenches mentioned by history only to be cursed. But if truth and justice are enforced according to correct standards, then trembling, shaking with fear, and spinelessness will be substituted by firmness, clarity, and awareness. Then, optimism and light will replace darkness, and coordination and cooperation will replace isolation.

Therefore, we call on those who invite the foreigners to the Arab homeland as masters to insult the Arab nation's sanctities and sublime values, to remember that by so doing, they will go down in history as slaves of the foreigners, if not as betrayers of the people, the trust,

the national and pan-Arab honor, and the honor and principles of the Islamic message.

The fearful ones who seek stability and tranquility should seek the satisfaction of God and their people and nation, rather than the satisfaction of the foreigners. If the foreigners are satisfied with those who seek refuge with their spears today, then this satisfaction is nothing but the satisfaction of the master about a humble, obedient slave who eats their crumbs and who deserves nothing the curse of God, the nation, the people, and history.

The stray rulers can only seek reassurance from their people and nation by keeping foreign armies, schemes, and evil intentions outside the borders, by staying away from anything that would anger God and the nation, and by returning to the right path to represent the majority of the people of their countries and their nation. A solution to any difference between this ruler and that ruler inside the nation is possible if the foreigner remains outside the borders.

However, if the foreigner comes to the Arab territories along with his spears, armies, and filth and enters the fences of the Arabs and Muslims — just as it is currently the case in some Arab countries — the only result of this wicked infiltration into the homelands of the weak souls will be more filth, weakness, and bloodshed. The foreigner will maintain a presence, so that the gap between the ruler and the ruled will increase with time whether through influence or the foreigner's spears through the local ruler. The people will then face a slogan they never wished for. Hence, getting rid of the foreigner's spears and his control over the free ones and over his agents, as well as getting rid of the foreigner's wickedness, manipulation of the people's fates, and the filth of his evil actions will become a ruling fact and an imposition to which there is no alternative. This can only be achieved by getting rid of the insipid rulers, those who agreed to submit to the foreigner after they brought great shame to their people. The cleansing of honor will become a duty. We all know how the Arabs view this situation and how they behave when cleansing their honor becomes a duty and the only way to dignity and pride.

Glory be to the martyrs of our nation — the martyrs of independence, freedom, and justice. Glory be to the martyrs of the July march. May God have mercy on our deceased who sacrificed their lives in this march. May God have mercy on Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, Abu-Haytham; Hammad Shihab; Salih Mahdi 'Ammash; and Sa'dun Ghaydan. May they rest in peace. A salute to the July revolutionaries and to those who raise the banner and champion principles without hesitation on the path

of the great July march. Long live the Arab nation's and armies' fight for a free and Arab Palestine. Long live the people of Palestine's struggle. Long live the strugglers of Palestine. Down with Zionism, down with weakness, and down with the filthy ones in our nation's ranks.

God is great. God is great. Accursed by the lowly.

Iraq: 'Text' of 'Arafat's Congratulatory Cable to Saddam

JN1607203496 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jul 96

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to President Saddam Husayn on the 28th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution anniversary — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency brother President Saddam Husayn, God's peace and blessings be upon you. As sisterly Iraq marks the 28th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, on behalf of the Palestinian people and the PLO, I would like to send to your excellency and through you to your wise government and your people in proud Iraq our warmest, most heartfelt congratulations and best brotherly, sincere wishes. I take this important national occasion to express to your excellency our constant support for sisterly Iraq and our profound solidarity with all good efforts being made to lift the unfair blockade so that Iraq can resume its national march toward progress and prosperity and so that it can play its constructive and effective role in serving our Arab nation's fair causes and noble supreme objectives. The brotherly Iraqi people, with their self-denial and courage in defending their freedom, independence, and national sovereignty, and with their cohesion and unity, are able to overcome all the challenges and difficulties they encounter. We are confident that the people of Iraq will emerge from this crisis safe and united.

Throughout the long and arduous march of their struggle, our Palestinian people have enjoyed the care and support of your excellency and sisterly country. They are confident of your continued brotherly and brave support for them, especially under the current crucial circumstances under which they are facing major challenges and difficulties. They are confident of your support for their efforts to build their homeland in Palestine and their independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

I reiterate to your excellency the sincerest heartfelt congratulations and wish you continued health and happiness and your brotherly people the restoration of their health and strength with the lifting of the unfair

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blockade imposed on them so that they can continue their march toward progress and prosperity.

Please accept my best regards and appreciation. Together we will march toward holy Jerusalem.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Iraq: Saddam Receives Congratulations From Jordan's King Husayn

JN1707201896 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn received a cable of congratulations from King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the 28th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

The following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq:

May God's peace and blessings be upon you

It pleases me to seize the opportunity of the 28th anniversary of the national day of the fraternal Republic of Iraq to send you the best wishes in my name and on behalf of the people and Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

We pray to the Almighty God to return this occasion as you enjoy continued good health and as the fraternal Iraqi people enjoy further progress, pride, and prosperity.

[Signed] Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Iraq: Senior Officers Said Arrested in Wake of Coup Attempt

MM1707132596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Sources in Jordan Confirm Security Services Continuing Arrest Campaign Against Army Officers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Iraqi sources residing in the Jordanian capital, Amman, have confirmed that the Iraqi security services have arrested a large number of senior Iraqi Army officers for interrogation in the wake of what was termed a failed attempt to overthrow Saddam Husayn late last month.

The sources said that more than 160 officers have been arrested so far, among them 12 Republican Guard officers and three Special Guard officers. And that three senior officers were arrested two days ago. They were governors of a number of Iraqi provinces. They are: Lieutenant General Iyad Khalil Zaki, governor of al-Muthanna (al-Samawah) in southwest Iraq; Lt. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Rahman, governor of Ninawa (Mosul) in north Iraq; and Major General Mahmud Shukr Shahin, governor of Wasit (al-Kut) in the center of Iraq.

The sources said that the arrests are attributable to the fact that the names of the officers in question have been mentioned in current investigations with the military men arrested on charges of planning to stage a military coup against the Iraqi regime.

According to the sources, last week the Iraqi security organs launched a large-scale arrest campaign inside the Iraqi Army following the foiling of a plan aimed at overthrowing the regime in which military leaders from Mosul, the 4th Corps in al-Basrah, al-Rashid camp, al-Rashid air base in Baghdad, al-Habbaniyah air base in west Iraq, and Karkuk camp in north Iraq took part.

The sources said that Muhammad 'Ayyash al-Tikriti, an officer in the protection force guarding President Saddam Husayn and brother-in-law of retired Lt. Gen. Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, fired at a number of protection force officers inside the Republican Palace following disagreements. Other sources said that 'Ayyash tried to fire at the Iraqi president inside the Republican Palace. Unconfirmed reports spoke of an explosion inside the Republican Palace a few minutes after the Iraqi president had left the palace.

But information received from Baghdad indicates that the special security service, supervised by Qusayy, the Iraqi president's youngest son, who is married to Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid's daughter, foiled a plan aimed at assassinating the Iraqi president and toppling the regime. The information says that this plan was the biggest since Saddam Husayn assumed power in Iraq.

The information says that Flight Lt. Gen. Hamid Sha'ban, former commander of the Iraqi Air Force, who was dismissed after the Iraq-Iran war, was held and interrogated by a committee from the special security service, which is headed by Qusayy Saddam Husayn. The committee put him under house arrest in Baghdad. For a few years he has been living on one of his farms between Samarra' and Tikrit.

According to the information, Sha'ban was summoned for interrogation because one of the detained officers said that they had thought about nominating Sha'ban as

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a candidate to lead the coup government "on the grounds that he is Sunni and from Tikrit" and thus could enjoy the support and backing of numerous officers, especially among the Iraqi Air Force.

Iraq: Opposition Radio Reports on Power Struggle, Arrests

NC1707152196 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the continuing power struggle among officials of the ruling regime, tyrant Saddam Husayn's authorities recently arrested Ahmad, eldest son of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan al-Tikriti, on instructions from Saddam Husayn. Stating this, Iraqi opposition sources added that the Iraqi regime's authorities placed under house arrest Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad Mustafa, husband of Saddam's third daughter. These sources said that these two measures were taken after a new power struggle emerged among members of the ruling clan in Baghdad, in the wake of information that tyrant Saddam Husayn received that Sab'awi al-Hasan al-Tikriti intended to join his brother Barzan al-Tikriti in Geneva. This information prompted the regime to place Watban and Sab'awi under house arrest and to detain Ahmad, the son of Watban.

These sources said that the other party to the power struggle is 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, who insists that his sister divorce her husband, who has been under house arrest after his brother Kamal Mustafa, commander of the Republican Guard forces, was dismissed following the killing of Husayn Kamil and his brother in March. These sources stress that the next few days will witness further developments in the power struggle as the regime looks for posts for its members.

Iraq: PUK Asks World Leaders To Stop Turkish 'Aggressions'

NC1707183096 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 96

["Text" of Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Political Bureau memorandum to world leaders on Turkish attacks on Iraq Kurdistan's territories—announcer- read]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton,

French Republic President Jacques Chirac,

British Prime Minister John Major,
Turkish Republic President Suleyman Demirel,
UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

At 1900 on 10 July 1996, 10 Turkish planes raided villages in the (Zaghrut) and Bote areas and their suburbs in (Randah) city in al-Sulaymaniyah governorates. More

than 80 people were injured, including women and children. Nearby villages and the surrounding fields were set on fire.

While condemning this abominable crime [words indistinct] of the Turkish Army on the territories and air space of Iraq's Kurdistan, we stress that these aggressions have become unbearable and are in clear violation of international norms and laws.

The military campaigns inside the borders of Kurdistan and the bombardment of cities, villages, refugee and displaced persons centers, children, old people, and [word indistinct] inhabitants of the Kurdish border villages in Turkey, specially in the (Akrush) center, which is under the control of the UN organizations operating the region, are inconsistent with the most basic international principles, laws, and charters and principles of good neighborliness. They are a violation of the protection undertaken by the coalition forces in the safe area of Iraq Kurdistan known as [words indistinct] and ultimately will [word indistinct] and impede the rebuilding of the border towns and villages that were destroyed by Baghdad's dictatorial regime.

We urgently demand a halt to these violations, which have recently increased repeatedly. Their continuation will undoubtedly lead to adverse consequences even for Turkey itself.

[Signed] The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Political Bureau.

Irbil, 11 July 1996.

Iraq: Regime Delivers New Food Distribution Plan to UN

JN1707170796 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq yesterday handed the United Nations a new proposal on the distribution of foodstuffs and humanitarian aid to its people after two weeks of talks aimed at responding to U.S. objections. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's representative at the United Nations, told reporters in front of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's office that he handed the latter the final formula for the distribution plan and that he hopes to receive a response within the next 24 hours.

Washington rejected the first formula, which was presented last June, saying that Iraq is trying to import computers and spare parts for helicopters in violation of the international blockade.

Al-Anbari negotiated the new formula with Chinmaya Gharekhan, one of Butrus-Ghali's advisers, who, according to a UN spokesman, will meet with the UN Security Council today.

Israel: Netanyahu Says Arab Democracy Not Condition for Peace Process

TA1707185596 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Address by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to economic conference at Dan Caesarea Hotel; broadcast in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ...agreements and understandings, and ultimately to a peace agreement with Israel. In the first stage, I would very much like to reduce friction in Lebanon. Lebanon is a friction point which entails dangers to the entire peace process, and we will look for ways to reduce this friction to the minimum.

I would like to clarify something. I spoke in Washington about several tiers of peace. I spoke about security and reciprocity, and I mentioned democratization. I am telling you here what I told 10 ambassadors and representatives of Arab countries, which included Syria and Sudan in a separate meeting we held later. I told them that democratization is their own internal business. It is not something somebody can impose on a society, unless.... [pauses] This is not MacArthur and Japan. It is an internal issue which must, can, and is emerging in a certain part of the Middle East. This is a heartfelt wish, as it would change the character of peace. Obviously, if we were surrounded by democracies, peace would be less or, perhaps, not at all dependent on armaments, defense, and the security component.

This is an ambition and a wish, but it is in no way a condition on our part for conducting a peace process and attaining peace arrangements with our neighbors — to wit, the arrangements that have already been attained.

Therefore, I do not want anybody to think that we will delay this process with some kind of excuse or pronouncement meant at undermining it. We want this chariot to advance. Let there be no doubt about it.

I also think there is a separate need to advance the economic processes between us and our neighbors.... [broadcast ends]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 17 July adds: "Prime Minister Netanyahu said that in his talks with President Mubarak tomorrow he will raise the issue of economic cooperation between Israel and Egypt and throughout the entire region as a lever to solidify the peace process. Addressing an economic conference in Caesarea, the prime minister vowed to have the state budget approved by the Knesset in exact accordance with the cuts decided upon by the government and noted that Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Ravitz promised him his full cooperation.

["Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman says the prime announced he will formulate a dramatic privatization program in the next two years in which government firms, public authorities, and services will be privatized and a multiannual inflation goal will be set."]

Israel: Netanyahu Comments on Upcoming Meeting With Mubarak, Syria

TA1807063196 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal from Ben-Gurion Airport "a short while before Prime Minister Netanyahu's departure for Egypt" — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu heard from Dore Gold, his political adviser who set up the Cairo visit, that the most interesting point for Egyptian President Mubarak will be the Palestinian issue. Therefore, in addition to the firm positions Netanyahu will present to Mubarak on terror, Orient House, Jerusalem, and the honoring of commitments, he will also present a concrete timetable: A meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and David Levi next week; within a few weeks, a government decision on the Hebron issue and a continued easing of the closure on the territories; and most importantly, a clear effort to implement the Oslo Accords, perhaps the clearest endeavor heard from Binyamin Netanyahu, as stated at the Caesarea convention yesterday.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] The Palestinian track is relatively well-defined because there are a series of agreements. Whether we like the series of agreements or not, we inherited them and we intend to fulfill them. This is the first thing that should be understood. We intend to expand and formalize our relationship with the Palestinian Authority, primarily to conclude the Oslo A and B accords. We have agreements and we intend to implement them. We naturally expect the other side to also abide by its commitments. We first want to complete what has been done up to now, and later enter a framework for negotiations on a permanent arrangement. [end recording] [passage omitted]

In the context of Syria, it is interesting to refer to the remarks made by Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday, which are very fitting in view of the very cool and even offensive comments published in the Egyptian press this morning regarding Netanyahu. The following are his remarks about the difference between rhetoric in the Arab world and what takes place in practice. These remarks refer to the meeting his adviser Dore Gold held at the end of his U.S. visit with Walid al-Mu'allim, the Syrian ambassador to Washington.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] We just had an interesting contact with the Syrians. It is a little different from the radical rhetoric. There are all sorts of affectionate terms that the Syrian press uses about me and the government, but under the surface, I can tell you that our representative met with the Syrian representative in Washington last Friday, that they held a meeting which was conducted in a slightly different, more matter-of-fact, tone. I hope that this will lead to the resumption of the negotiations with Syria, with the clear aim of progressing toward a series of understandings and agreements, and ultimately a peace treaty with Syria. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israel: Netanyahu Agrees To Ease Closure, Considers More Permits

TA1707154296 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1400 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Netanyahu and Public Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani have agreed that the closure of the territories will soon be eased. The two discussed the issue last night. One option under consideration is to issue more entry permits to Palestinian workers.

Israel: More Details on Measures Planned To Ease Closure

TA1707174796 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic* 1600 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior Israeli military sources told our correspondent Kayid Zahir that the preliminary instructions relating to the easing of the closure announced yesterday by the government have reached the military authorities and the relevant security agencies entrusted with preparing the necessary arrangements for this step.

The sources said that the facilitating measures pertain to increasing the number of laborers from the territories allowed to enter Israel and granting special entry permits into Israel for commercial purposes. The permits will be given to merchants who want to conclude deals with Israeli manufacturers and businessmen. Moreover, students from the Gaza Strip will be given entry permits to reach the West Bank universities following the security agencies' recommendations.

On another matter, the sources said that the military headquarters in Hebron was evacuated last week.

Israel: Peres Confirms Contacts With Hizballah on Body Swap

TA1707152296 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
1500 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed today that contacts are under way between Israel, Germany, and Hizballah to obtain the return of the bodies of Israeli soldiers. Peres added that the contacts have been held since the understandings of Operation Grapes of Wrath.

Israel: IDF Reportedly Preparing for Body Swap; Netanyahu Comments

TA1707184896 *Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew* 1700 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] There have been somewhat contradictory reports about a deal emerging between Israel and Hizballah through German mediation at the end of which the bodies of Rahamim Alshekh and Yosi Fink will be returned to Israel. Our army affairs correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] personnel today began digging up the bodies of Hizballah prisoners killed in Lebanon who are buried in a cemetery in northern Israel. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 17 July adds that at the end of his address to an economic conference in Caesarea this evening, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was asked whether he could confirm reports about a deal to swap 200 Lebanese for the bodies of the Israeli soldiers "either tonight or tomorrow." In a recorded passage Netanyahu replies: "I don't think this is the time or place to go into the details of those reports, either to confirm or to deny them. I propose that you put off your question to another time."]

Israel: Beilin Calls For Unilateral Withdrawal From South Lebanon

TA1707144596 *Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT [24 SHA'OT supplement] in Hebrew* 17 Jul 96 p 5

[Commentary by Labor Knesset Member Yosi Beilin: "The Harmful Security Zone"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The unity government made a not so simple decision in January 1985: to unilaterally pull out of Lebanon, two and a half years after the start of a 48-hour operation in the area. We pulled out despite the fact that the Lebanese could not fulfill the peace agreement with us. Despite the fact that the

Syrians remained there. Despite the hue and cry raised by Shamir, Sharon, and Arens. We pulled out because we understood that this was the only way to leave the hell we had entered in our folly in June 1982.

In view of the circumstances and security considerations, a decision was also made then about a unilateral security zone. We drew a line that was recognized only by us. We generously assisted the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and dispatched soldiers to deliver this assistance. We regarded it as a temporary solution and, as in many other cases, the temporary became permanent. The quasi-casual line became the de facto border between us and Lebanon.

Over the years, no Israeli Government had the courage to take responsibility for completing the unilateral move. All governments declared that Israel has no territorial claims in Lebanon and absolutely recognizes the international border — and the security zone remained.

It is not a real security zone for the northern settlements, seeing that it is not wide enough to be out of katyusha range (and if there are no katyushas, this is because of the understandings reached with Hizballah and nothing else). It does not contribute in any way to preventing infiltrations into Israel that could not be prevented by the border fence. It is not necessary for the operation of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] assault helicopters in Lebanon. The main occupation of our soldiers there is to protect themselves. They move about like knights in armor, with difficulty and limited freedom, and are sitting ducks for local guerrilla troops.

Paradoxically, we have become captives of Lebanon and, primarily, captives of ourselves. We operate in Lebanon so that our soldiers will not feel abandoned. We are not getting out because we do not want to feel like cowards fleeing the battlefield and give the impression that we are being chased out by violence.

We are captives of the SLA, which is no longer a Christian militia fighting for its freedom but an army whose soldiers are mostly Shiite and officers mostly Christian. Some say that if we leave, we will be abandoning the SLA, and that its men will then be accused of cooperating with Israel and will be punished for it. And the greatest paradox of all is that we are also captives of Syria. Fearing that our pullout from Lebanon might trigger international pressure for its own pullout, Syria has been hinting that it will not concede us the right to withdraw from the security zone unless this is done in the framework of a comprehensive agreement.

There is no certainty that a pullout from south Lebanon will not create problems, but the current situation clearly is a catastrophe. It is also clear that even if we cannot

"count on" Hizballah, the fact remains that they do not fire katyushas at us on a whim and that they claim they will not hurt us if we withdraw beyond the border. It is also clear that the Lebanese Government, however weak it may be, has already disbanded most of the militias in the country and promises to disarm Hizballah after an Israeli withdrawal.

That is why we must pull out of Lebanon and deploy south of the border fence. We should do that with the help of the United States, which will explain to Syria how important this is in its eyes. This must be done after making sure that the SLA soldiers will be integrated into the Lebanese Army, after establishing that UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] troops will deploy all the way down to the border, and after Hizballah is disarmed. If our northern settlements are attacked, God forbid, then the IDF will operate once again, without having to endanger our soldiers 24 hours a day.

The time to do it is now, in view of the relative calm and when there is no fear of being accused of withdrawing out of cowardice. And if somebody asks me why the previous government did not do it, I will say that we definitely made a mistake. If it is Netanyahu who does it, I will be grateful to him.

Israel: Mordekhay Rejects Beilin Call For Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA1707150596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, from the Knesset podium, Labor Knesset Member Yosi Beilin called for pulling the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] out of south Lebanon. In Beilin's opinion, we have become captives of ourselves in Lebanon. The Syrians do not want the IDF to get out in order to justify keeping their army in Lebanon. He called for pulling out of the security zone and integrating the SLA [South Lebanese Army] into the Lebanese Army.

Replying to Beilin's proposal, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay said that the threat to the residents of the north continues and that there is a daily threat of terrorist infiltrations into south Lebanon. We will not be able to get out of Lebanon until the Lebanese Government vows to disband Hizballah and takes responsibility, the defense minister stated.

Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that the Knesset decided to continue the debate in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Israel: Mordekhai Warns of Long-Term Damage if Defense Budget Cut

TA1707133396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1005 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhai said today that the defense budget cut is liable to cause long-term damage to the security provided by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The defense minister accused the Finance Ministry of distorting some of the data concerning senior IDF officers' salaries and benefits. Minister Mordekhai made these observations at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Nir] The defense establishment sent some big guns to the Knesset committee today: Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhai; Chief of Staff Lipkin-Shahaq; Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri; and the chiefs of the Manpower, Planning, and Fiscal Branches. Their observations constituted not only charges against the Finance Ministry but also an unequivocal warning to Israeli society.

The chief of staff said: I wish to inform you that I am worried about what has been going on in the army. Too many of our best men have announced that they do not intend to remain in the army. I know that their self-respect and not their salaries took a blow. We have a crisis of confidence on our hands. The defense minister said: Career officers feel that Israeli society has turned its back on them.

The report delivered by the defense minister at the committee session was critical of the Finance Ministry as well as the government and its decisionmaking processes: Instead of presenting an analysis of the strategic situation, the threats, and the answers the IDF can provide and then tackling the budget, they only addressed the career officers' salaries. The defense minister added: I asked that the budget debates be postponed in order to allow a more in-depth study of the data, but the Finance Ministry insisted on a very tight timetable.

Yitzhaq Mordekhai added: Some of the consequences are liable to lead to irreparable damage. This is security, not a business enterprise. The defense budget has not grown in a decade, despite several external events, including the intifadah, the Spectrum Operation, the redeployment, the doubling of the Shin Bet's capability, the establishment of the Internal Security Ministry, and the Home Front preparations for times of emergency made in the wake of the Gulf war. Mordekhai warned: Unless the significance of all this is understood, we will one day wake up to a different security format from our current one. [passage omitted]

Israel: IDF To Reduce Deployment in Nabulus Area

TA1807061996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff work is taking place in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to reduce the size of army force deployed in the Nabulus area. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the possibility of abolishing the brigade in Nabulus and transferring its duties to the area brigades in Janin and Tulkarm is being examined. At a discussion held with 'Uzi Dayan, the commander of the Central Command, the commanders of the Judaea and Samaria brigades levelled harsh criticism at the performance of the Civilian Administration and the Judaea and Samaria police. A proposal was raised during the discussions to place the Civilian Administration and Israel Police officers directly under the supervision of IDF commanders in Judaea and Samaria so as to improve their performance.

Israel: Kibbutz Movement Plans Settlements in Gaza-Hebron Area

TA1707133496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1005 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the change of government, progress has been made with regard to the United Kibbutz Movement's [UKM] initiative to set up a series of presettlements manned by Nahal Brigade soldiers in the area between Gaza and Hebron. Tours of the area have been held recently to inspect appropriate sites for the establishment of such settlements. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports:

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] Shortly before the elections, UKM officials floated an idea which seemed almost revolutionary: to set up four or five Nahal presettlements in the strip between Gaza and Hebron. On the face of it, the reason they cited befits the champions of settlements in the territories more than the UKM. They said that the area is slowly being taken over by Arabs and Bedouin and that there will be no Jews left there soon. Such a presence must be established, UKM officials said. The initiators were sharply criticized at the time, but the change of government seems only to have done the idea good, as Yo'el Marshaq, director of the UKM's Youth and Settlement Department and the man behind the initiative, told us this morning.

[Marshaq] The plan is slowly materializing and was discussed today by various Construction Ministry elements. Indeed, I hope that within one-two months the plan will pass its final approval by the government and the UKM and will start being implemented.

The plan was raised in meetings with senior Construction Ministry officials, and it was greeted very sympa-

thetically. We are now in the process of locating sites. We were told that the ministry will be willing to allocate land and money to buy trailers, fence off the area, and finance the presence of soldiers.

[Schmerling] According to the plan, the soldiers' mission will be guard duty and a demonstration of presence, as well as community services in towns in southern Israel. Anybody with a sense of responsibility for the demographic situation in the country, says Marshaq, perhaps berating his colleagues, should support the idea. [end recording]

Israel: Defense Minister Meets Settlers Council
TA1807065896 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
0400 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhai has met with the heads of the Yesha' Council of Jewish communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. They asked that members of the civil guard be attached to regular army patrols. They also asked to be allowed to resume building within the settlements. A further request was to have more land zone for building, and to permit families to move into empty apartments in the settlements. Council members described the meeting as very good, and said they hope that they would receive positive answers to their requests. The minister noted some of his responses would be negative because of government's policy or due to lack of resources.

Israel: Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Discusses Expansion Plans

TA1807133796 *Tel Aviv MA'ARIV [HAYOM supplement] in Hebrew* 18 Jul 96 p 5

[Report by Arye Bender]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "Within four years, anybody driving on the Jerusalem-Ma'ale Adumim road will no longer recognize the place. Instead of driving through empty spaces and hostile Arab villages, people will drive through a big continuum of Jewish neighborhoods and hotels leading from Mount Scopus to Ma'ale Adumim," promises Ma'ale Adumim Mayor Beni Kashri'el.

According to the plans, the town's population will double during the current government's tenure and exceed 40,000 people. The attached map, published here for the first time, sets the new boundaries of Ma'ale Adumim linking up with Pisgat Ze'ev in the north; with Mount Scopus, Augusta Victoria Hospital, and al-Tur in the northeast; and with al-'Ayzariyah and Abu-Dis in the south.

This plan is supposed to exclude Ma'ale Adumim from the final status negotiations and put it under Israeli

sovereignty. In the geographical continuity that will reach the outskirts of Jerusalem, Kashri'el plans to build no less than 2,000 housing units and 3,000 hotel rooms, vast tourism projects, a huge exhibition center, and various "attractions" to lure Israeli and foreign entrepreneurs to the site.

Kashri'el, who was recently elected acting chairman of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, is aware of the uproar that such a plan will trigger among the Palestinians and in the Arab countries. To forestall it, he says that Ma'ale Adumim will not be expanded by expropriating Arab land. "We are talking about declared state-owned land. There is no expropriation involved. The entire area belongs to Ma'ale Adumim," Kashri'el notes. [passage omitted]

"I have no doubt that Netanyahu will embrace the plan, on which there is national consensus. Over 80 Knesset members support it. Even in my meetings with U.S. administration officials, senators, and congressmen, I have found the understanding that Ma'ale Adumim will not be part of the autonomy. You cannot take a Jewish population of over 20,000, which will double within two years, and put it in a framework other than Israeli sovereignty," he adds. [passage omitted]

Israel: Jewish Agency Activity in Russia May Be Formalized Soon

TA1807103296 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
1000 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Immigrant Absorption Minister Yuliy Edelstein stated today that Jewish Agency activities in Russia will continue and even be formalized. He was speaking with our correspondent Qobi Mandel during a tour of Hatzrot Yasaf, a trailer park inhabited by immigrants. [passage omitted]

[Begin Edelstein recording] Jewish Agency activities will continue and, I hope, will be formalized — if I may use this term. Activities continue in practice and immigrants continue to arrive. I hope that in the next few days we will hear good news regarding the formalization of the Jewish Agency's activities there. [end recording]

Israel: Tourism Ministry To Invest in Hebron Area Projects

TA1607174996 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
1400 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism Moshe Qatzav, said today that the government has not yet decided on an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron. During a tour of Hebron and Qiryat Arba', he announced that his

ministry will invest in tourist projects in the Hebron area, especially the Tomb of the Patriarchs and other Jewish holy sites. Speaking to Efrayim Gefen in Qiryat Arba', the minister said that continued Jewish settlement in the area should not harm the local Palestinian population.

[Begin recording] [Qatzav] We have no intention not to permit the Arabs to receive their rights. But I believe, on the other side, that the coexistence between Jews and Arabs in Hebron is a reality and it's necessary.

[Gefen] What about the plans to redeploy Israeli forces in the Hebron area?

[Qatzav] We have to discuss it. The Israeli Government has not decided yet what, how, when, and where. It's not on purpose, but you know very well that the previous prime minister, Shim'on Peres, decided not to implement this commitment toward the Palestinian Authority because it's not easy and because the implementation includes many obstacles and it has many implications, which we have to discuss before we decide how, when, where to redeploy.

[Gefen] Will there be a redeployment?

[Qatzav] We have to discuss it, we have not decided yet. [end recording]

Israel: Security Elements To Complain About Collaborator Murders

TA1807081296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Security elements take a very grave view of the murder of two residents in the village of Bayt Awla in the Hebron District. Villagers say the Palestinian Security Services [PSS] killed the two because of their ties with Israel. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports.

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] [passage omitted] Bayt Awla villagers say the two residents were liquidated by an undercover unit of the PSS. In order not to run into complications with Israel the PSS developed a new technique, the villagers say. The blue-uniformed Palestinian police detain suspected collaborators, but before their release the police inform the liquidation squad. The latter murders the suspected collaborator immediately upon their return home. Three people have been murdered in this way. [passage omitted]

Security elements take a very grave view of the affair. According to the accord, the Palestinian police must not detain Arab inhabitants with Israeli identity cards. Security elements say this is a violation of the agreement,

and Israel will file a complaint with the Palestinian Authority. [end recording]

Israel: Levi 'Harshly' Criticizes Interest Rate Policy TA1707144696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has harshly criticized Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel's interest rate policy. Addressing an economic conference in Caesarea, Levi said: Frenkel is as tough as a rock on the interest rate issue, but a rock on which nothing is built is worthless.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that Levi also spoke about the workers' strike being observed today, saying he understands the feelings of labor union officials who are anxious about losing privileges they acquired over decades. He called on the government to hold a constant dialogue with these officials and brief them on the details of all its programs in order to reach an agreement rather than impose one by force.

Levi fears that if the government does not follow this path, it will fail to fulfill its plans to privatize public firms. He called on the government to be more sensitive to the weak strata of society and said he is confident the planned budget cuts will be radically amended by the members of the Knesset.

Israel: Netanyahu Vows Budget Cuts Will Not Change

TA1807113296 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 18 Jul 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The recently announced budget cuts will be executed to the letter, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu declared yesterday at the annual Caesarea Conference of Israel's economic decision makers.

Netanyahu said he was making this commitment in full coordination with Knesset Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz, who could be seen nodding in agreement. The prime minister's statement appeared to be a refutation of what Foreign Minister Levi had said at the conference earlier. [passage omitted]

The capital markets will be reinvigorated once privatization commences, Netanyahu told the economic leaders. He also said the capital markets' illnesses did not begin recently, but are structural problems which will have to be treated accordingly.

He said that government companies should be sold at market-determined prices and that privatizations should

be performed in such a way that the companies which are sold do not become privately held monopolies.

In his address to the conference, Levi said that while the budget-cut plan is indispensable, it nevertheless is too sweeping. The government will have to compromise its economic plans in order to secure social justice and stability, Levi said.

"One cannot divorce economic issues from social affairs," he said, adding that the cabinet's determination not to raise taxes was breached by its decision to raise the prices of various services. That, too, is a form of taxation, particularly for the weaker layers of society, he said.

Netanyahu refuted this in his speech, saying he sees no distinction between social and economic policy and that the situation in which the budget equals some 50 percent of the gross domestic product cannot continue.

Levi stopped short of justifying the strike waged yesterday in protest of the economic plan, saying the strike harmed no one but the workers themselves. The government, however, must take the workers into account and not dictate to them, he said.

Israel: Bank of Israel Governor Rejects Criticism on Interest Rates

TA1807115096 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
18 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by David Lipkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel last night rejected the onslaught by the business sector against his decision not to lower interest rates. "I'd rather be a compass than a weather vane," Frenkel stated. He would not even hint at the imminent possibility of lowering interest rates.

After two days in which top business leaders lashed out at his interest policy at an economic conference sponsored by the Israeli Democracy Institute held in Caesarea, it was Frenkel's turn to respond to them in the concluding session: "If the proposal to lower interest rates were put to a vote by businessmen it would score an absolute majority. But neither in Israel nor anywhere else in the world are interest rates influenced by the government or by the vote of a conference in Caesarea."

Frenkel stressed that economic policymakers should also be prepared to enforce unpopular short-term steps. Economic goals cannot be attained through populism, he said. He emphasized that life goes on beyond the question of lowering interest rates by 0.5 percent and that the operation of the machine does not depend on interest rates rising or dropping 0.5 percent. According

to him, the Bank of Israel's interest policy is based on a serious list of considerations, and they are the only ones who determine whether interest rates will be raised or lowered.

Frenkel added that experience shows that countries with independent central banks had better economic performance and managed to achieve lower inflation rates.

To ensure continued economic growth in the coming years you cannot wait for years to come, Frenkel said, and it is imperative that the state budget be cut without any further delay. This vital need stems from the fact that the deficit in the balance of payments has significantly exceeded forecasts.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor, the moderator of the conference, noted that a vast majority of the attendees favored an immediate reduction in interest rates. At the same time, he abstained from voicing his opinion on the matter.

Referring to the stock market crisis, Meridor pointed out that he intends to treat it in depth. To this effect a team of Treasury and Bank of Israel officials has been set up who will formulate recommendations on ways to deal with the issue soon.

Israel: HATZOFE Rejects de Charette Plan To Visit Orient House

TA1707161896 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
17 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial: "An Unwelcome Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister Hevre de Charette, who is about to visit Israel, was asked by the media whether he intends to visit Orient House while in Jerusalem. He said that he will decide about this once he gets here, but there are indications that he intends to pay such a visit despite the opposition of the Israeli Government.

It can be assumed that Foreign Minister de Charette is well aware of the Israeli Government stand against state visits to Orient House. Israel has made it repeatedly clear that it will decline visits by ministers whose itinerary includes the Palestinian Authority representation in Jerusalem. We do not know that this message has been brought to the French foreign minister's attention on the eve of his arrival here, although it stands to reason that he is aware of it.

It is no secret that France sympathizes with the PLO. It also supports 'Arafat's demand that Jerusalem be partitioned into two capitals: the capital of Israel and the capital of Palestine. The French minister should know:

Paris will have no say about the future of Jerusalem. The Israeli Government is the only sovereign power to rule on this matter.

Three thousand-year-old Jerusalem has always been the capital of Israel. It was never an Arab capital, even if the Arabs changed its name to al-Quds. Jerusalem has been and always will be the capital of the people and the State of Israel.

If the French foreign minister is not willing to acknowledge this historical fact, he had better stay in Paris and not visit united Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel.

Israel: Labor Urged To Overthrow Government Before 'Disaster'

TA1707114196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Jul 96 p B1

[Commentary by Orit Shohat: "Who Will Overthrow the Government?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The question of who will lead Labor to the elections four years from now is less important than the question of who will lead it today. A disaster might happen here in the next four years. Even before the next elections, our democracy could go bankrupt, after the ultra-Orthodox throw diapers full of baby excrement at the Supreme Court and the justice minister drafts High Court of Justice-bypass laws to calm down Zvulun Hammer who coined the phrase: "The High Court of Justice is a Meretz branch."

Before the next elections, several state assets may already be handed over to several of Netanyahu's American sponsors and contractors, who last week published large ads in the press to congratulate Ari'el Sharon on his recent appointment, may be getting Land Administration ground — via the privatization path. By the next elections, there already could be another 100,000 settlers, and Yasir 'Arafat might just turn into a faint memory, after he is replaced by an extremist leadership that would rather blow up Orient House than close it.

Four years from now, we might be after a war. No one can say for certain that Clinton will win his U.S. election battle. Who knows? Newly elected President Bob Dole and his good friend Netanyahu might just decide to launch an educational war "to instill the values of democracy in the Middle East." The weaponry will be American, the blood Israeli. After all, what happened in the very successful meeting between Netanyahu and the rightist Congress was most of all reminiscent of the times when the world was divided into good guys and bad guys — Communists and democrats — and the United States had a compelling need to make them all

repent and become its identical twins. Does anyone miss those days? It seems that Netanyahu lives in those days and thrives on them.

We do not have four years to wait before we change the government. This fact should be the guiding light of the contenders for Labor leadership. The natural leader that will emerge from this movement would not be the one who best organizes the branches, but the one who manages to overthrow the current government before a disaster happens. It could happen from the outside, by demonstrations for the Oslo accords and against war, but it is more likely to happen in the Knesset. It is harder to overthrow a government under the new election law, but not impossible. There is a need for a common feeling of disaster, a sense of rare opportunity to do that, or for a party to feel that this government will do nothing good for its voters. That party could be SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

This does smell a little like the "stinking trick" of the 1990's, but there is nothing more stinking than passively and politely observing a government that marches to war. Anticipation for a major disaster is in the air, and can be detected from remarks by cabinet members who found that Netanyahu is exactly what they thought he would be, only meaner and more amateurish.

Will Avigdor Qahalani and Yehuda Har'el, who supported the Oslo agreements, find they cannot live with the agreements' being buried? Will it take another Yom Kippur War trauma for this government to fall like the 1973 government which, under Golda Meir, sounded very much like the current government? Or will the sane Likud members perform the miracle they failed to perform in 1982-1983, and come out openly against their prime minister? Perhaps this time, David Levi and Dan Meridor will show a sense of national responsibility, in real time and not in retrospect, through history books.

Labor should not go through a process of soul-searching, and there is no need for it to draw lessons. Its political path is correct. There is also no reason for Labor to learn to "lose gracefully" because these are not the Olympic games; this is a question of life and death. Labor should first of all think about finding the shortest possible democratic way in which to replace the government.

Since the elections, none of the Labor leaders came forward and called on the public to follow him. No one (except for Avraham Shohat) sat in front of TV cameras and said that the government is lying and creating an artificial financial crisis. No one (least of all Baraq) yelled "fire!" about any of the emerging antipeace moves. It may well be that the next Labor leader will be determined only after someone proves

he deserves it, only when someone feels personally obligated to overthrow the government.

Peace and war do not care for election dates. They have their own tempo, and we should follow it. It just might be too late to change anything once the minister of national infrastructure finishes laying the ground for Greater Israel in the West Bank; the agriculture and environment minister finally manages to realize his dream to move the trans-Israel highway into the territory of the future Palestinian state, to eliminate every option of it ever

Israel: Commentary Compliments Netanyahu on Visit to U.S.

TA1807041896 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service
in English 17 Jul 96

[Commentary by Uri Elitzur, editor-in-chief of NEQUDA magazine: "Israel and Uncle Sam"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prime Minister has returned from America, and we have to say to him not only, "Welcome!", but also, "Good job!" — he did what he was supposed to do. We unfortunately have had politicians and diplomats much more experienced than he, who have returned from similar trips with their wings clipped. The pressure that the Americans place upon them is apparently quite intense. And it's not the kind of pressure that can be simply explained in terms of cutting aid, or placing sanctions; the threat is not so straightforward or specific, but it is quite strong nonetheless.

It's not that we are economically dependent upon the U.S. The truth is that we are not dependent upon it. American aid to us is not as great as it appears; the 3 billion dollars that we receive is only a small percentage of our national budget, and even smaller compared to our gross national product. This is not to say that it would be pleasant, if all at once they would decide to cut off that aid — just as if a family that was living on 5000 shekels a month all of a sudden found its earnings cut by 300 shekels a month. It's not pleasant, but it's not quite a death blow. So therefore we have to remember two things: One, that America knows that our economy could survive the cancellation of their aid to us — and just as they know it, we also have to realize it; and two, that this is really not even a relevant possibility at this point. A large portion of American aid to us is money that returns to the American economy. Our agreement with them stipulates that we must use their aid to buy American-made goods. It is therefore an American interest that we receive this money, so that it may be invested in their industry. In simple language,

if for some reason American aid would suddenly be cut off tomorrow, more Americans would lose their jobs than Israelis.

Despite all of the above, somehow the fact THEY are giving US hangs in the atmosphere and sets a certain tone. Just like the relationship between a poor man and a rich man — the poor man always feels that he has to speak quietly, and humble himself somewhat, even though they both know that not only does the poor man need the rich man, but the rich one needs the poor one too.

Netanyahu dealt with this issue cleverly. He announced that we, on our own initiative, would like to reduce the aid that we receive in the coming years. For this he received a storm of applause in the American Congress, and simultaneously disconcerted the State Department, who doesn't really want to lose its leverage over Israel. But in practice he didn't give up on even one dollar.

Alongside all of this, we have to keep in mind that an Israeli Prime Minister cannot afford to rile Uncle Sam too much, for reasons other than economic. The main reason for this is his supporters back home. The typical Israeli citizen wants to see warm relations between his government and America. The fact is that when there's tension, the Israeli citizen begins to worry, and when the man in the street begins to worry, the Prime Minister's popularity begins to wane, and when that happens, his Knesset colleagues begin to get very nervous, and they start trying to cover themselves. They start leaking anonymous criticisms of the Prime Minister to the press, and thus the process begins to snowball in such a way that it is hard to tell what caused what. The overall result is a weakening of the government and of the Prime Minister. This is what happened to two of Netanyahu's predecessors — Menahem Begin and Yitzhaq Shamir. They both fell victim to this snowball-mixture of newspaper headlines, international pressures, and uneasiness among the Israeli public, via which the Americans succeeded both in weakening the Prime Minister and in getting him to concede certain strategic points against our national interest.

Binyamin Netanyahu, on the other hand, succeeded during this visit in manipulating all of the pressures instead of allowing them to neutralize him. He returned from there stronger than when he left, did not concede any Israeli interests, and did not renege on any of his or the Likud's positions. He returned with the distinct impression of not-bad relations between the Israeli government and the American administration, the American press, and the American public. For all of this, he deserves, very simply, a Well done!

Jordan: King Husayn Leaves for London on 'Working Visit'

JN1707095496 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] With God's care and protection, His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for London this morning on a working visit that will last several days. [passage omitted]

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in before His Majesty King Husayn and Cabinet members as regent during his majesty's absence. Accompanying His Majesty King Husayn are: His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn; His Highness Prince Hamzah Bin-Husayn; 'Awn al-Khasawinah, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty's military secretary; and Staff Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti, Saudi Foreign Minister Discuss Peace Process

JN1707160796 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, held a telephone conversation today. They exchanged views on developments and progress in the peace process, efforts to support this process, and the resumption of negotiations on all tracks toward realizing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. The Jordanian and Saudi views on this issue were identical. This contact is part of the ongoing coordination between the two sisterly countries.

Jordan: Opposition Calls For 'Peaceful March' To Protest Price Hike

JN1807104796 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
18-19 Jul 96 pp 1,8

[Report by Mirvat Suwadah; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—A coalition of nine opposition parties and representatives from various public interest groups Wednesday called for a "peaceful march" to be organized next week as part of a campaign against a government plan to 'lift' subsidies on bread.

In a statement issued yesterday, the coalition, which blamed government policies for the country's economic woes, also called for a "public economic conference" that would bring together representatives from opposi-

tion parties, various public interest groups, the government and economists to draw up an economic reform plan for the country.

"The main problem lies in the government's economic reform plan which has failed so far to improve the deteriorating economic situation in the country," said the statement, which was issued at the end of a three-hour meeting between representatives of various parties and public interest groups. "We believe that economic reform can be achieved only through public participation in decisionmaking," it said.

The coalition strongly rejected a government proposal to compensate Jordanians for the rise in bread prices and said it was an attempt to "mislead" people by stating that the decision will not affect Jordanians.

"The government knows that the compensation it intends to pay is not enough and that not all Jordanians will be able to get it. The government is just misleading people," the coalition charged.

Last week, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said his government estimated the average consumption of bread by each Jordan at 103 kilogrammes annually which entitles each Jordanian to JD (Jordanian dinars) 15 yearly in compensation for the difference in prices.

He asserted that Jordanians will "not be affected" since the compensation will be paid for each citizen and that only foreign workers and tourists will have to bear the difference.

His Majesty King Husayn also showed total support for Mr. al-Kabariti's move in an address to Jordanians last week.

His majesty stressed that the government "was not responsible for the country's economic hardships" and urged Jordanians to accept the harsh economic measures that were "imposed on the Kingdom."

But the government's repeated assurances seem to have failed to ease the popular concern that hike in bread prices could prompt raises in the prices of other commodities.

Wednesday's statement, which called on Jordanians to "resist" the government plan to hike bread prices, said representatives from political parties and groups opposed to the move, will seek audience with Parliament speaker to discuss the issue.

"We will urge deputies to seek a non-confidence vote in the government during Parliament's extraordinary session, which will start Saturday," the statement said.

Islamic Action Front deputies have threatened earlier to seek a non-confidence vote in the government if it carried out its plan to raise bread prices.

During a meeting with Mr. al-Kabariti earlier this month, deputies staunchly opposed the government's plan and urged "alternative solutions" to contain the budget deficit, the main reason behind the government's move to "rechannel" subsidies on bread.

The government, which says it has not set a date yet for raising bread prices, is currently engaged in drawing up a plan for implementing its decision.

Meanwhile, the opposition said it called off a rally in Irbid which was scheduled for Wednesday, after failing to get permission from the authorities.

Lebanon: Israel Shells Areas, 'Resistance' Attacks Israeli Post

NC1707120396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces stationed in al-Suwayda' shelled the areas of al-Wadi al-Akhdar and Habbush this morning. They also opened heavy machine-gun fire on these areas.

The hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah were subjected to an artillery bombardment from Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah at around 1100 [0800 GMT] today. In retaliation for the continuous Israeli attacks, the Resistance used machine guns and rockets to attack the enemy position at al-Suwayda', inflicting casualties on the enemy personnel.

Lebanon: Prime Minister al-Hariri on Country's Future

MS1607105096 London FINANCIAL TIMES
in English 16 Jul 96 p 31

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by correspondent David Gardner; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There cannot be many countries with a currency that brushes off an invasion but starts to collapse if one man threatens, as he periodically does, to resign. But Lebanon is no ordinary country, and that man is prime minister Rafiq al-Hariri, the self-made billionaire who has cast himself as the saviour of the country which tore itself to bits in the 1975-90 civil war.

When Israel launched its 17-day bombardment of Lebanon in April, the Lebanese pound blipped for one day and then, with minimal central bank intervention, showed no loss of strength. Yet when Mr al-Hariri "resigned" and was reappointed in May last year there was a run on the pound. Indeed, in the eight months prior to his taking over as premier in October 1992, the pound lost 55 per cent of its value whereas it has since appreciated by nearly 30 per cent.

The normally affable and brash al-Hariri is uncharacteristically bashful about discussing it, but judges that "the currency is now stronger and less dependent on me. I think I will have succeeded," he reflects, "when anybody, including me, can be prime minister without it making any real difference."

Until then, however, Mr al-Hariri's ambitions to restore Lebanon's pre-war prosperity by relaunching it as a regional services entrepot and capital market have intertwined the country's fate with his own political survival.

Mr al-Hariri, 51, came to the fore through the 1989 Taif agreement which ended Lebanon's sectarian bloodshed the following year, and took over when by 1992 it was clear this new dispensation had failed to halt Lebanon's drift. Until then, he was known in Lebanon mainly for the reputed \$4bn [billion] fortune he amassed from Saudi construction projects, and for the around 50,000 scholarships he endowed to educate Lebanese abroad.

The Taif accord rebalanced power between Lebanon's three main groupings, while maintaining the pre-war structure. The presidency, through which the Maronite Christians had lorded it over the country's 16 other communities until they lost the civil war, was obliged to cede power to a Sunni Moslem prime minister (Mr al-Hariri) and a Shi'ite Moslem speaker of parliament, the former civil war militia leader Mr Nabih Berri.

Mr al-Hariri has struggled to establish himself as the primus inter pares of this troika of "presidents". He has shown scant regard for the inter-confessional rivalries which still plague Lebanon, preferring to operate as the chief executive of a business. Although in cabinet and parliament he still has to deal with clan barons, sect leaders and former warlords, he operates through a network of business associates and employees he has placed in key ministries and the government agencies in charge of reconstruction.

Mr al-Hariri is used to having his instructions carried out, and to distributing money freely to oil things along; staff say he habitually pays in cash, in large amounts but at irregular intervals. He is himself a key investor in Solidere, the \$2.5bn private company which is recreating the devastated downtown area of Beirut as a financial and commercial centre, the showcase of reconstruction.

Admirers underline that, unlike many Arab leaders, Mr al-Hariri is putting his own money into Lebanon rather than using office for personal enrichment.

Critics say he is taking over Lebanon like a company in which he has become the chief shareholder. He himself points to results.

"There is in this country," he remarks, "a mix-up between freedom, democracy, and authority. The executive power has to be a homogeneous team... with a common view of the future of the country."

His opponents would point to the autocratic instincts underlying this ostensibly unexceptionable view of governing, citing as primary evidence his use of the army this spring against the trades unions.

Tens of thousands of workers defied his three year-old ban on demonstrations to protest against falling

living standards and restrictions on private radio and TV ownership they believe favour Mr al-Hariri's own extensive media interests.

His exasperation with Lebanon's political class, however is shared widely by the Lebanese, and it is one source of his popularity. But Mr al-Hariri has made no attempt to use this following to remould the confessional system into a new national consensus.

Syria's post-civil war hegemony over Lebanon, in which 40,000 Syrian troops guarantee the peace and Damascus arbitrates sectarian rivalries, limits his room for manoeuvre, certainly. As does the heightened tension between Israel and Syria following the election seven weeks ago of Mr Binyamin Netanyahu at the head of a hardline Israeli government.

But Mr al-Hariri's own instincts are to continue with Lebanon's physical reconstruction, irrespective of the risks of a new conflict in south Lebanon between Israel and the Syrian-backed militia of Hizballah. "We will continue to rebuild, we will continue strengthening our security forces, and strengthening our international links," he says.

One of Mr al-Hariri's undoubted strengths is his wide range of international contacts. He used this artfully during the April crisis to ensure that Lebanon's voice was heard when its more powerful neighbours, Israel and Syria, were negotiating its fate.

His close personal relationship with President Jacques Chirac of France, for example, meant that Paris persisted with its mediation efforts despite active discouragement from Washington, and consequently that the April crisis ended on terms nearer those sought by Lebanon and Syria than to the initial Israeli demands backed by the US.

During and since April, Mr al-Hariri has spent long periods abroad, trying not only to win funds for reconstruction but also to build a louder voice for Lebanon.

He is philosophical about Lebanon's prospects if the new government in Israel blocks the Middle East peace

process, pointing out that after five years of failed talks with Israel, "Lebanon just continued on its way, and we can continue for another five years."

Investors are naturally hesitant, he concedes, but this does not dim his belief that Beirut will re-emerge as a regional financial centre, this time as a sophisticated capital market channelling development funds into the Middle East rather than, as pre-war, a banking centre recycling surplus oil capital into western markets.

"There is no other alternative either for us or the rest of the region," he says. "In 17 years of civil war, no other country took the place of Beirut."

Lebanon: Trade Talks With Jordan Conclude, Document Signed

JN1807065896 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan and Lebanon have moved to strengthen their trade relations and open new areas of cooperation. The two sides today signed documents of the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Lebanese committee at the end of trade talks in Beirut.

Minister of Industry and Trade 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib and his Lebanese counterpart Yasin Jabir signed the documents. The move will open the way for a free trade agreement between the two states. The agreement envisages an exemption of fees and taxes on agricultural trade and offers each country's industries a preferential status.

While in Beirut, 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib met with the Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and the Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Abu-al-Raghib affirmed Jordan's support to Lebanon in efforts to regain its sovereignty on all its occupied lands.

Syria: Al-Asad, al-Hirawi Discuss 'Changes in Israeli Policy'*JN1707180796 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1650 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 17 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1130 today. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' later joined the meeting.

The talks dealt with important developments in the region, changes in the Israeli policy on the peace process, and the activities and contacts made by the two fraternal countries with Arab and world countries.

The talks also focused on efforts to develop the results of the recent Arab summit conference held in Cairo toward strengthening the Arab position in face of the moves that are hostile to the Arabs and their causes and consolidating the joint Arab action toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on the principles of the peace process and the resolutions of the international legitimacy and peace that returns the occupied territories and usurped rights to their owners.

The talks also dealt with issues of bilateral interest.

The talks continued over a luncheon hosted by the president and attended by Khaddam, al-Zu'bi, al-Shihabi, and al-Shar'.

Syria: 'Official Sources' Cited on al-Asad-al-Hirawi Talks*JN1707152996 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1100 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[Report by Thana' al-Imam in Damascus]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a closed meeting immediately after al-Hirawi's arrival in Damascus today.

Official sources say that the peace process tops the agenda of the talks. Al-Hirawi will brief al-Asad on the contents of the letter he received from President Clinton, who reiterated the U.S. Administration's commitment to the peace process, in accordance with the peace process principles. The sources say that the two presidents will discuss the latest developments pertaining to Netanyahu's remarks following his visit to Washington—statements that undermine all tracks of the peace process. They will also discuss the results of Foreign Minister al-Shar's contacts with Jordanian Prime Minister al-Kabarti and President Mubarak.

According to these sources, the two presidents will discuss recent agreement on the security committee and its work to protect civilians from the Lebanese and Israeli sides, stressing the nonpolitical nature of the committee.

Al-Hirawi's visit comes to reiterate cohesion of the Syrian and Lebanese track amid much talk about attempts to separate the two tracks through Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon with the aim of embarrassing Syria.

Minister al-Shar' recently emphasized that the two tracks will not be separated under any circumstances.

According to official sources, the Syrian strategy to confront Netanyahu's policies is based on moves by the Arab troika, composed of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, to stop normalization between Israel and some Arab countries, and on intensifying contacts with the European side, in general, and France, in particular.

Syria: TISHRIN Highlights al-Asad-al-Hirawi Talks on Peace*JN1807081096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Jul 96*

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Consolidating the Arab Position," the newspaper TISHRIN speaks about the talks that were held yesterday between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. TISHRIN says that the talks centered on promoting the results of the Cairo summit with the aim of rectifying the Arab position and supporting joint Arab action and firm adherence to the resolutions of international legitimacy as the basis for a just, comprehensive, and solid peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper says: It is well known that Syrian-Lebanese relations, which reached a high level of cooperation and coordination, are an example that should be emulated. Syria is for Lebanon as Lebanon is for Syria.

TISHRIN notes that regardless of its maneuvers, Israel will not be able to drive a wedge between the two countries in order to deal its strike and harm the higher interests of the two countries. It says: During the Cairo summit and Muscat meeting, the Arabs decisively supported the just demands of Syria and Lebanon. They urged Israel to effect a comprehensive withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy in full. The two countries will absolutely not cede an inch of their lands or a single right. There will be no peace without Syria

and Lebanon. There will be no peace without Israel's full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The decisive Arab position that was crystallized and underscored during the Cairo summit and Muscat meetings supports the policy of the two countries, which is a principled and unwavering one that abides by the pan-Arab constants and restoring the rights of Arabs in full.

**Syria: Commentary Says Israeli Position
'Declaration of War'**

JN1707191596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Israeli policy put the peace march in [words indistinct] what should be said is that the Israeli Government's positions and the statements made by the Israeli prime minister are considered a sort of declaration of war against peace and its bases, and against the international forces and establishments that worked out these bases.

Through its positions, Israel is challenging the whole international community, not just the Arabs. Israel's wagering on the adjustment of the world and the Arabs to its policy is a losing bet, because the just and comprehensive peace that was drafted by the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the U.S. initiative serves the interests of all and constitutes the basis of the regional and international security and stability. Hence, the Arab and international efforts focus on rescuing the peace process and deterring the Israeli aggression against peace.

What calls for optimism is that the Arab and international positions have become identical and coherent. The resolutions and positions of the recent Arab summit were welcomed by the European Union states, the industrialized nations summit, the Russian Federation, the African summit, China, Japan, and other world countries.

Undoubtedly, the united Arab position has largely contributed to the unification of the world position. Whenever the Arabs deepen the unity of their position and enhance their solidarity they will find that the world has a unified position with them and with peace to which they aspire, because this peace is the just peace based on the international legitimacy and its resolutions. The Arab position will remain coherent and will not change because its objective is to realize just and comprehensive peace. This is what Syria has always emphasized. The Syrian emphasis is an emphasis of the constants stipulated in the resolutions

of the international legitimacy and adherence to full withdrawal from the Golan to the lines of 4 June and from southern Lebanon and other occupied Arab territories. These constants are the crux of the U.S. initiative that calls for land for peace. The land cannot be divided, and the same applies to peace and the international legitimacy.

When the Arabs adhere to these constants, they seek to restore their occupied territories and rights and to restore prestige and respect to the international community and its law and legitimacy. It has become clear to everyone that the Arabs, along with the rest of the world, support a just and comprehensive peace, and that Israel, through its positions and rejection of the UN resolutions and the U.S. initiative, rejects peace. This leads the region to more tension and violence and threatens security and stability in the world. Hence, Israel shoulders the full responsibility for this policy.

Syria: Press on Syrian Efforts, Israeli Peace Stand

JN1707195896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial titled "Strengthening the Arab Position," TISHRIN discusses the message conveyed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' from President Hafiz al-Asad to President Hosni Mubarak on developments in the region. The message is part of the ongoing contacts and consultations between the two countries to strengthen the Arab position, especially since the two countries, along with Saudi Arabia, called for the Arab summit that was held in Cairo.

TISHRIN says: The important and essential change in the Arab situation after the Arab summit was the positive results in the international arena. The Likud government, led by Netanyahu, which wagered on Arab divisions and lost, confronted the opposition of several of the world's large and small countries because of its antipeace ideas.

TISHRIN adds: The United States was satisfied by saying that it is committed to the bases of the peace process, led by the land-for-peace principle. On the other hand, the European Union, Russia, China, and several non-aligned countries openly and sharply criticized Israel and its new government and warned of the consequences if the peace process collapses and regional tension escalates.

TISHRIN says: The Cairo summit was a true Arab uprising in the face of Israel's ideas, procrastination, and maneuvers. This resulted in true Arab solidarity, a unified Arab stand, and work to mobilize Arab

capabilities. It also resulted in isolation for Israel and the exposure of its expansionist schemes.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria is working relentlessly at all political and diplomatic levels and through consultations and contacts with its brothers to strengthen the Arab position with pan-Arab constants. There will be no relinquishment of land, and the aggressor should withdraw fully and approve all the Arab rights. There will no peace in the region other than the peace of the international legitimacy.

In an editorial titled "Israel Declares War Against Peace," the newspaper **AL-BA'TH** says: Israeli provocation by intensifying settlement construction, rejecting the land-for-peace principle, and planning to Judaize occupied Arab cities and territories, is the greatest motive to unify the position and bolster what the Arab leaders agreed on at Cairo summit.

AL-BA'TH says: The current Arab movements, represented by the Syrian diplomatic efforts, and the clear response to these efforts are likely to change many of the realities that the Israelis thought would remain in their favor. The Damascus Declaration states' ministerial meeting was used to review positions and inclinations. Likewise, the Israeli rejection of peace and its terms laid the foundation for an Arab trend that Israel did not expect. This will surprise the forces that defend Israel's aggressiveness.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the Israeli prime minister's statements in Washington and New York on settlement building signal tensions and dangers that are hard to contain or control. It is unreasonable to demand that the Arabs pursue peace and not to deter Israel for publicly rejecting peace, the paper asserts.

AL-BA'TH says: If not for war, the Israeli Government has prepared itself to freeze the peace process for at least four years in order to complete the Judaization and expansionist objectives of the settlement plans and to displace the Arabs from their homes again.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Syria has warned against the perils that await the Arabs. Its speedy and intensive move in the Arab arena is an attempt to warn against the danger and to warn against a disaster if the Arab position is not unified on the basis that was stressed by the Cairo summit and supported by the Damascus Declaration member states.

In its editorial, **AL-THAWRAH** says that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has made all his ideas unmistakably clear. He stressed his intention to shirk the peace process in form and content, preferring to maintain the occupation of the Arab land and raising the settlements slogan above any other.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Netanyahu's antipeace statements at the U.S. White House and Congress are very clear. Consequently, it is no longer possible to wager on expecting an Israeli policy that differs from the one that Netanyahu has been advocating from the time he became a candidate up to the moment he mourned the peace process at the U.S. Congress. This leaves numerous questions about the future of the region, which has begun to witness some tension because of the Likud policy.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Where are the commitments of the United States as a superpower and a cosponsor of the peace process? Can it accept to give up its initiative and adapt itself to Netanyahu's ideas, as he demanded, even at the expense of the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the assurances that it made prior to the Madrid conference? It is dangerous for Israel, with its racism and tendency toward brutal aggression, to be able to impose its logic on all countries of the world, including the cosponsors of the peace process. This requires a speedy and effective international move to rid Netanyahu and his extremist team of their illusions. Then, hopefully, they will see the facts of peace in such a manner that will allow the peace process to get back on track.

Syria: U.S. Stand, Netanyahu's 'Destructive' Approach Criticized

JN1807083896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper **AL-BA'TH** speaks about Binyamin Netanyahu's stands on the peace process. It asserts that Netanyahu tried in Washington to torpedo this process and its foundations. **AL-BA'TH** adds: Of course, nobody is unaware of the relations between the United States and Israel or of the limits of the U.S. electoral battle. However, only a very few people expected the U.S. official response to Netanyahu's stabs to the foundations of the peace process and the U.S. credibility.

AL-BA'TH adds: It can be stated very clearly that those who look forward to peace were surprised by the U.S. position on Netanyahu's position and policy and found no justification for all this welcome and encouragement. Neither hospitality, courtesy, nor the requirements of the electoral battle justify this position.

AL-BA'TH notes: No one asks the United States to adopt an impartial position, which it does not want or cannot adopt under the well-known circumstances. However, it should support its initiative, the foundations

of this initiative, its credibility, and interests in the region. It should also heed the fact that it is the most powerful state in the world today and that it is directly responsible for achieving world peace.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: The Arabs chose a just and comprehensive peace as their strategy. However, they did not choose relinquishment of their land and rights. They accepted the U.S. initiative to restore their land and rights based on international legitimacy and not to exonerate Netanyahu, and his likes of the arrogant Zionists, from usurping their land and rights.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: It should be made clear that peace in the region can be achieved in return for the occupied land. However, it cannot be achieved on the basis of occupation, suppression, regional expansion, and defiance of the international legitimacy. Blind encouragement of Netanyahu's foolish policy will not help make any progress. It will rather exacerbate the situation in the region and escalate tension and lack of security and stability. This will make it possible to put the clock back and, thus, make it difficult to invigorate the peace process, which will be undermined by Netanyahu's destructive approach.

AL-THAWRAH also speaks about the frustration and despair vis-a-vis the peace process as a result of Netanyahu's stands and statements. It asserts that these positions caused a serious retraction in the opportunities for achieving a solution. AL-THAWRAH says: Notwithstanding the exaggeration of its stands and ideas, Netanyahu's government will never be able to impose the solution according to its weird and false conceptions. It will not be able to force the Arabs to cede a single inch of their land.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It should be made clear that the Arabs are not ready to resume the peace process except on the basis of the foundations and principles agreed upon in Madrid. At any rate, the Arabs will not relinquish their land or rights, regardless of the causes and circumstances. They will never accept any condition that may violate honor or dignity even if the peace process drags on for another 100 years.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: The statement of the latest Arab summit sent a clear message about the principled approach of Arabs — an approach that adheres to right, does not bargain on sovereignty, and accepts nothing less than a just and comprehensive peace that will ensure a secure and stable life for all the peoples of the region.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The Arabs want peace, which they made their strategic option. They are serious about its achievement despite all the obstacles

Israel places. We are a nation that seeks peace with great determination. However, we believe that peace is a noble objective that will be realized only when the land and rights are returned to their legitimate owners and when the other party adheres to the requirements and conditions of this peace and agrees to removing all manifestations of injustice, occupation, and aggression.

Syria: AL-THAWRAH Rejects Netanyahu's 'New Negotiating Formulas'

JN1807095896 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0730 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 18 Jul (SANA) — The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's statements about new negotiating formulas are part of his declared war against peace. It says: All the new formulas he proposes are nothing but a clear indication of his shirking of peace commitments and rejection of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which constituted the framework of the Madrid process. They also represent a cancellation of the land-for-peace principle, which is the basic buttress of a just and comprehensive peace which provides security for all.

In an article headlined "The Jewish Mentality of Veto," AL-THAWRAH says: Whoever wants peace should comply with its foundations, principles, and conditions. These foundations and principles were approved by the international community, which sponsored the Madrid conference and laid the foundations of its terms of reference on the basis of land for peace.

It adds: Netanyahu's riddles put the future of the peace process at risk. It is unreasonable for contradictions in terms of claiming interest in peace while doing everything that would abort the opportunities of its success to reach this limit. It is unreasonable for the Arabs to submit to all these impossible Israeli conditions without having the right to demand their land and rights on the negotiating table.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: We should remind Netanyahu that he will be utterly wrong and fully obsessed with his Torah dreams if he thinks that he can force the Arabs to submit to this logic, which contradicts the realities of history and geography and clashes with the principles, foundations, and requirements of peace.

Syria: Talks 'Breakthrough' Said 'Unlikely' After Netanyahu U.S. Trip*JN1807102796 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English
16 Jul 96 p 5*

[Editorial: "American Policy Comes into Politics" by Fu'ad Mardud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A breakthrough in the Middle East peace talks seems unlikely after the recent visit of Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to the United States and the talks he had with U.S. President Bill Clinton and other American officials.

It was one of those grim coincidences that the Middle East throws up occasionally: Arab leaders had just announced at their recent meeting in Cairo their readiness to make peace, and almost a week ago news came from Israel that officials in Washington had fully understood the positions of the Israeli government towards the peace process—as Mr. Netanyahu put it upon his arrival back from the United States. The bitter lesson out of this is that occupation and repression by Israel come first. The negotiating talk is a secondary arena. The Middle East peace talks won't go ahead and the chances for substantial progress are worse than before: slim to nil.

After Netanyahu's assurances that he won't quit the Golan Heights under any conditions and he will not trade land for peace on all fronts — including the West Bank, nobody can yet deny that the darkness coming from Tel Aviv is false. It certainly indicates a change in demeanor that America should denounce, since such a change would destroy prospects for an overall settlement in the region.

Washington can play an important off-stage role. American foreign aid, weapons sales, loans and trade to and with Israel are legitimate ways for the United States to promote its values and interests. With the full backing of the U.S. Congress, successive presidents haven't used those carrots to promote a better understanding of the peace requirements by Israel.

The American electoral scene couldn't yet produce surprise. Early evidence indicates that any radical policy departure either by the present administration or by the coming government in its early days would be very slow, or unlikely.

At the moment, American politics are the crucial scene. Both Clinton and Bob Dole are playing hard within the context of politics, though they are aware that intrusion of politics into policy would be deplorable and damaging. The Middle East area is waiting for a U.S. President who can distinguish between policy and politics and can see where the interests of peace are.

Syria: Minister Criticizes Israeli 'Rejection' of Land-for-Peace*JN1707152196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman emphasized that the Israeli rejection of the land-for-peace principle is a rejection of all the values and all resolutions of the international legitimacy. He added that this rejection is aimed at torpedoing the bases of peace and the principles of the regional peace process.

In a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent after voting in the Journalists Union-Damascus branch elections today, Dr. Salman said: The Syrian Journalists Union has great tasks, led by the challenges created by the changes in Israel. These changes brought the extreme Israeli right to power. The Israeli right daily announces that it rejects committing itself to the foundations of peace on which Madrid initiative was based and rejects the principle of land for peace.

The minister added: Journalists in Syria are working with other Arab journalists in other Arab countries to reach a united position toward these challenges, on one hand, and toward national and pan-Arab action, on the other. [passage omitted]

Syria: Al-Shar' Returns From Visit to Egypt*JN1607170296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jul 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at al-Itihadiyah Palace in Cairo this morning. [passage omitted] The foreign minister returned to Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off at Cairo International Airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs; senior Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials; Dr.'Isa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo; and the embassy's staff. [passage omitted]

Syria: Security Issues With Jordan Aired Ahead of Husayn Visit*MM1607104396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
16 Jul 96 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi and Salamah Ni'mat: "King Husayn Will Brief al-Asad on Results of Netanyahu's Visit"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, Amman — A high-ranking Syrian official has told AL-HAYAH that

contacts are under way between Damascus and Amman to prepare for King Husayn's visit to Syria. The official stressed that Syria cares about "the Jordanian people's security, just as it cares about Syrian citizens' security." Jordanian sources have said that King Husayn will brief Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the results of the Israeli prime minister's talks in Amman, which he will visit on 25 July.

The Syrian official said that King Husayn "asked to visit Damascus to hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, and contacts are under way to prepare for the visit in light of their recent talks" on the periphery of the Arab summit held in Cairo last month. The official stressed that "no Syrian entered Jordan with any security designs."

Jordanian sources had accused Palestinian organizations such as the Islamic Jihad Movement and the Popular Front (for the Liberation of Palestine)-General Command of "subversive" attempts in Jordan, saying that Jordanian officials submitted to their Syrian opposite numbers "a dossier" on that.

Syrian officials "denied any knowledge of that." The senior Syrian official said that "the Palestinian organizations' movements between Syria and Jordan are not subject to any Syrian observation. These organizations have branches in Jordan just as they have branches in Syria." He added that "some of these organizations have

a symbolic presence, and within the presence of the Palestinians expelled from their land by the Israelis." The official said that elements of these organizations "have been moving between Syria and Jordan since they left Palestine."

Diplomatic sources have said that security meetings took place between the Syrian and Jordanian sides recently. The sources told AL-HAYAH that the meetings "were held in light of the announcement of the formation of an investigation committee to prove to the Jordanians that Syria has nothing to do with what has been reported about bombing attempts against Jordan."

The Syrian official said that "no Syrian has been sent to carry out any action against Jordan's security, and no Syrian security quarter has anything to do with the Palestinians' movements." He stressed "our eagerness not to interfere in the internal affairs of any fraternal country." He pointed out that "we care for the Jordanian people's security just as we care for Syrian citizens' security and lives."

In Amman, official Jordanian sources expect the Jordanian monarch to visit Damascus at the end of the month to meet with the Syrian president, namely after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who will visit Jordan on 25 July. [passage omitted]

India

India: Ministry Briefs Foreign Envoys, Others on CTBT

BK1707112096 *Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD*
in English 17 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Jyoti Malhotra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs ministry yesterday summoned 17 heads of missions here to explain India's position on the comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), in the wake of external affairs minister I K Gujral's statement on the subject in Parliament on Monday [15 July].

The amended statement in the Lok Sabha, it is slowly becoming clear, was made after a series of consultations with senior leaders of the Congress, the Left parties and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] over the weekend.

Former Prime Ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Atal Behari Vajpayee, former external affairs minister Pranab Mukherjee and some Left party leaders were briefed by ministry officials on the subject. All of them offered suggestions which were later incorporated in the final text.

Thus, an earlier, milder version which had said that New Delhi "would not obstruct" the comprehensive test ban treaty had been sent off for typing and printing before the weekend. Subsequent to the talks over the weekend, the Rajya Sabha version — on which was written "please check against delivery" to prevent contempt of the House — was amended to the stronger Lok Sabha version.

This is the second time that Gujral has initiated an attempt at consensus-building, cutting across party lines, on a sensitive subject such as the comprehensive test ban treaty. The effort, has obviously paid off, since it has resulted in a statement that shows every intention of standing up to international pressure.

Among those who were briefed on India's stand on the issue were ambassadors from Australia, Switzerland, Egypt, South Africa, France, Austria, Nigeria, Singapore, Mexico, Belgium and Sri Lanka.

Even though this meeting is one in a series of briefings that the ministry has undertaken in recent weeks, it acquires significance in the light of Gujral's statement in Parliament. He had said India would not "endorse or accept" a comprehensive test ban treaty which did not take into account India's concerns on nuclear disarmament.

Sri Lanka high commissioner Mangala Moonesinghe told this reporter that his country "understood and accepted" India's stand on the comprehensive test ban

treaty. "India's stand is a responsible one. We can't create a super-club of nuclear powers in this world. Most of us in south Asia agree with this position," he said.

The briefings in South Block are a direct fall-out of Gujral's attempts at taking the national consensus on foreign policy to its logical conclusion.

He has written to every foreign minister, to some even twice, about India's position on comprehensive test ban treaty.

Further, by speaking to the major political parties over the weekend, Gujral ensured that India would be seen to be standing up to the various US and Russian demarches on the subject.

In fact, Congress leader P V Narasimha Rao raised the comprehensive test ban treaty issue during the CWC [Congress Working Committee] meeting on Friday [12 July] night, enquiring in what likely areas could India be subject to pressure.

The Congress line on the comprehensive test ban treaty seems to have recently happened perhaps because of domestic compulsions, some analysts say, but it has ended up contributing crucially to the national position. In fact, as Pranab Mukherjee made clear during his intervention on the comprehensive test ban treaty debate in the Rajya Sabha on Monday, "We needn't be too worried even if we are isolated" in the near future.

He went on: "I am quite confident that Mr Gujral will exercise his diplomatic skill to avoid exercising our power to veto. But if it is necessary, then we should not feel shy of using it."

India: Government Takes 'Tougher Line' on CTBT

BK1707110396 *Madras THE HINDU* in English
17 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by K.K. Katyal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At some point yesterday, the Government of India veered to a tougher line on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT], discussions on which are due to be resumed in Geneva on July 29. This was evident from the departure by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, from the text of his speech, as prepared for delivery in the two Houses of Parliament. The modified text does not contain these words: "We do not want to be 'spoilers' or obstruct the treaty". At the same time, a new sentence was inserted in the revised version — "we cannot endorse it or accept the draft in its present form".

Together, the two changes commit the Government to a line free from the earlier ambiguity. The first

formulation virtually precluded the option of vetoing the draft but the final statement does not indicate any such constraint. Earlier, the Government had confined itself to an expression of hope that the CTBT obligations would not be thrust on India now. This seemed a soft line especially when read along with the "we do not want to obstruct the treaty" approach.

Even the revised CTBT draft does not meet New Delhi's viewpoint on a key issue there being no change in the provision that the treaty could not enter into force without India being a party to it. India has two options — either to stay away from voting or take a stand against it (which will have the effect of a veto). The parliamentary statement, in its final form, leaves India free to adopt the second course.

Though Mr. Gujral read out the revised statement in the two Houses, some in the Rajya Sabha based themselves on the earlier formulation. For instance, the former External Affairs Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, saw no cause for worry if India were to be described as a spoiler (the word used in Mr. Gujral's statement before revision). "In the coming weeks", he said, "we may be described as a 'spoiler' of the game in the media and in Western countries. But there are occasions when to protect our principled stand we need not be worried even if we are isolated."

Here are the two formulations. The one in the statement, as prepared for delivery, said: "At the face of it, the new text does not seem to attend to the issues that we have been raising. We will remain engaged in the discussions when these resume on 29 July in order to ensure that our freedom of action is not constrained in any manner. Our approach will remain a responsible approach. We do not want to be 'spoilers' or obstruct the treaty, but we have to safeguard our national interests. If other countries reach their own consensus, that is their sovereign decision. We would expect that all countries will respect our decision and ensure that the Treaty, with which we will not be associated, will not impose any obligations on India."

The revised formulation was as follows: "On the face of it, the new draft text does not attend to the issues that we have been raising. Therefore, we cannot endorse it or accept the text in its present form. We will remain engaged in the discussions when these resume on 29th July in order to ensure that our freedom of action is not constrained in any manner."

Our approach will remain a responsible approach, but we have to safeguard our national interest. If other countries reach their own consensus, that is their sovereign decision.

We would expect that all countries will respect our decision and ensure that the Treaty, with which we will not be associated, will not impose any obligations on India. These views will be conveyed to the Conference on Disarmament."

India: Prime Minister Rejects Abrogating Kashmir's Special Status

*BK1807094496 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has asserted that there is no question of abrogating Article 370 [of the Constitution] giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Intervening during question hour in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Deve Gowda said this position was amply made clear by the late prime minister, Indira Gandhi, in parliament and there is no change in it.

Earlier, answering the main question, the minister of state for personnel, Mr. S.R. Balasubramaniam, said the question of autonomy and its scope will be discussed with the elected government in the state.

The government informed the Rajya Sabha that a large number of persons who were involved in militancy in Kashmir are now moving away from it. The minister of state for personnel, Mr. S.R. Balasubramaniam, said in a written reply that some of them have set up new groups and are anxious to participate in the political and democratic process. He said groups like the Forum for Permanent Resolution of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] Problem, the Awami League, and others have been in dialogue with the government. The minister said discussions include issues relating to confidence-building measures and to reduce harassment, intimidation, and violence against innocent civilians.

India: Congress Meeting Does Not Discuss Leadership Issue

*BK1707031896 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 17 Jul 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An informal meeting of the senior Congress leaders held in New Delhi last evening concluded without taking any decision. Briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the meeting only discussed the political situation in the country and the party's prospects in the coming assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Punjab. He said the question of leadership was not at all discussed as it was not on the agenda. He added that the issue will come up only in January after organizational elections in the party are over. Mr. Gadgil also said no decision was taken on the dates of the next AICC [All India Congress Committee] session.

Just before the meeting, two rival groups arrived and started slogan shouting. Meanwhile, five senior leaders of the party — Mr. Sharad Pawar, Mr. Balam Jakhar, Mr. Karunakaran, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad — who came to attend the meeting had to go back amidst slogan shouting. They later assembled at Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad's residence. Later, talking to newsmen, they demanded that the Congress president should take action against those responsible for what they termed as ugly incidents outside the venue of the meeting. They, however, ruled out any split in the party.

India: Strong Prospects For BJP Growth in Bengal Seen

96ASOO28A Calcutta SAPTAHIK RARTAMAN
in Bengali 15 Jun 96 pp 9-12

[Article by Pabitra Kumar Ghosh; "Atal Behari's Journey: Will BJP's Influence Grow in This State?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Calcutta is the birth place of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], but despite emerging as the biggest political party of the country, its recognition and strength in Calcutta is low. The destiny of the BJP would have been different in West Bengal if Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh [BJS], had not met an untimely death. Even discounting his tremendous personal popularity, the majority of the alienated people in this state would have merged together around him. Later, the same section of people brought the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPM] to power by knocking down the Congress Party. These were the East Bengali refugees who migrated from East Pakistan [now Bangladesh]. Had Shyam Prasad Mukherjee not died in prison in Kashmir, these refugees would have formed a new political force under his leadership. Even to the West Bengalis, Shyam Prasad could have been the most acceptable leader. A few days before [India's] first general election in 1952, he formed a brand new political party known as the BJS, but before he could make the party strong, the election was held. BJS candidates scored their biggest success in Midnapur and Bankura while Shyam Prasad himself won the Lok Sabha [lower house of Indian parliament] seat from South Calcutta. This made it quite evident that the old and permanent inhabitants of the state were prepared to woo his leadership. On the other hand the refugees from East Bengal knew that because of Shyam Prasad it was possible for them to get the opportunity of starting a new life afresh by keeping intact their religious, social and cultural traditions after escaping from Muslim League rule in East Pakistan. It was Shyam Prasad who launched a vigorous struggle so that the whole of Bengal did not go into the grip of the Muslim League so that

Hindus could live dauntlessly. He demanded that the same theory and procedure should be applied to Bengal as was done for the division of India, and Mountbatten, the last Viceroy in India, could not disregard it. [passage omitted]

But the fruit of this gain was largely enjoyed by Jyoti Basu and his peers. As a result of BJS saving West Bengal from the clutches of the Muslim League, Jyoti Basu got the opportunity of becoming supreme ruler of the state. Had the whole of Bengal merged with Pakistan, he would not have gotten this opportunity, nor it would it have been possible for the CPM to swagger. Bengali communists grabbed the wealth of the state by constantly praying in the names of Lenin and Stalin. But Jyoti Basu should acknowledge his indebtedness first of all to Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, founder of the BJS. When Shyam Prasad was carrying on his struggle for the creation of a separate West Bengal state by taking part of Bengal, he said at different public meetings that any Hindu Bengali who wanted relief from Muslim League rule in East Bengal would get shelter in West Bengal. Shyam Prasad stood besides the refugees and the destitute who came in large numbers across the border. Constantly moving in the border areas he used to provide them with hope, faith and mental courage and made untiring efforts for their rehabilitation. The government of India did not even protest when in 1954, the Pakistani government began widespread oppression of the Hindu community in East Pakistan. On the contrary, with the intention of hushing up the whole issue, India signed the Nehru-Liaquat pact. Mukherjee constantly attacked the Nehru administration from the opposition bench in the Lok Sabha, especially on the issue of increasing Hindu refugees. Before [Mukherjee's] baritone voice, Nehru often used to feel helpless. The BJS was established in Calcutta at that time. Immediately it took the shape of an all-India political party and for that reason Shyam Prasad had to often rush out of Bengal. It was only then that Sheikh Abdullah started a conspiracy to take Kashmir out of India. The Communist Party even asked the Indian government to withdraw from Kashmir. Despite knowing everything, Jawaharlal Nehru kept his eyes closed and it looked as if he was a prisoner in the hands of Sheikh Abdullah. The Sheikh Abdullah government was carrying on a reign of injustice, impropriety and oppression of the Hindu community in Jammu. Not a single political party was coming forward to register a protest against the oppression of Hindus in independent India, because such a protest was considered 'communal.' Despite being humiliated and tortured by the Abdullah government, the Hindus of Dogra and Jammu did not receive sympathy from any organization or leader, except of course, Shyam Prasad Mukherjee. He alone shared their sorrows and built up a vigorous

movement on Kashmir both in and out of the Lok Sabha. He went to Kashmir, Nehru jailed him and he died there. As result, he failed to organize the Jana Sangh in West Bengal. After his death the expansion of BJS continued [outside of Bengal].

In the 1957 general election, young Atal Behari Vajpayee and three other compatriots won seats and entered into the Lok Sabha. New BJS legislators also joined the legislative assemblies of the Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, but West Bengal lagged behind. In this state no one ruled the helm of Jana Sangh with a firm hand. [passage omitted].

After the death of Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, no one appeared as a suitable heir-apparent. The BJP failed to revive Shyam Prasad's legacy in West Bengal. If the BJP of this state could only successfully attend to the political wealth that Shyam Prasad left for them, then their behavior would be different, they could find acceleration in their thoughts and actions and achieve an expression of boldness in their attitude. They could thereby greatly influence politics in the state. It is necessary to discuss this issue broadly and that is why, while discussing the future of the BJP in West Bengal, I have at the very beginning brought up details regarding Shyam Prasad. We should understand the mystery of why Shyam Prasad did not give much time to West Bengal politics even after setting up Jana Sangh. When after the division of the country, hundreds of thousands of refugees came to the state from East Bengal, Shyam Prasad stood up as their friend, servant and leader. He did not use the uprooted refugees as a pawn in politics. Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy was then the chief minister of West Bengal and Shyam Prasad had a deep friendship with him. As close compatriots, both of them thought and worked for the rehabilitation of refugees and fought against the Center. Shyam Prasad's struggle was against Jawaharlal Nehru and not against Dr Bidhan Chandra. Nehru knew about the good relations that existed between Dr Roy and Dr Mukherjee in West Bengal and was not pleased. On the other hand, the Bengal Congress Party did not receive any kind of blow from Shyam Prasad. Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy knew that Shyam Prasad would allow him to work in peace and it was not his intention to create political tension or challenge Congress rule in the state. The type of challenge the Bengal Congress would have faced if Sarat Chandra [leader of Forward Bloc] whad remained alive, was not favored by Shyam Prasad in West Bengal. The Jyoti Basu group took full advantage of the situation. The Communist Party supported the Muslim League proposal. They also demanded the division of the country and did not accept the undivided Indian national entity as a reality.

But after the division of the country, when refugees started pouring into West Bengal, the Communists delayed and even teetered for a moment as their sympathizers. The Communist Party held meetings, took out processions and launched agitations so that by increasing the feelings of hopelessness, unhappiness, despair and indignation in the hearts of the uprooted people they could ignite a [political] fire in West Bengal. They did not get the proletariats in their revolutionary task. The workers become members of the trade unions. The refugees then became the tool of a Communist revolution in West Bengal. They were already burning with the woes of losing their country [East Bengal] and the communists did not find it difficult to make this huge mass of people to understand that they were the victims of a brutal political injustice. Raising their fingers they made the refugees realize who was responsible for their miseries, and it goes without saying, that the fingers were raised against the Congress Party. The Communists conveniently quashed the truth that they jointly held meetings and processions with the Muslim League in the demand for Pakistan. As an inevitable consequence to the creation of Pakistan, an exodus of refugees having no home or hearth poured into West Bengal. The Congress did not want the division of the country, but the Communists did. The Congress did not launch a movement supporting the Muslim League, but the Communists did. But in their anger, indignation, despair and tension, the refugees did not remember all those things, and wanted a reprisal against the Congress Party. Although the refugees were scattered all over districts in West Bengal, their principal colonies were set up near Calcutta. They overnight built dwellings in the suburbs of Calcutta, and filled up refugee colonies from Bongaon to Jadepur and Tollygunj. The supremacy of the Bangals [Bengalis from East Bengal] started growing even in the Calcutta metropolis and thereby disturbed the political balance in Calcutta proper. In order to meet this change in balance, Dr Profulla Ghosh, who was a Bangal, was removed from the position of the first chief minister of West Bengal. The Hooghly group under the leadership of Profulla Chandra Sen and Atul Ghosh captured the leadership of the Congress Party. Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy, who had remained as the brain behind Calcutta politics and one of the 'big five's' [of the West Bengal Congress Party], was brought in as chief minister. This attempt of the state Congress Party to make it pro-West Bengal, or in other words, to omit the Bangals, was considered provocative by the newly arrived refugees. The Communists took advantage of it. They played the 'refugee card' from the very first general election, built a vote bank and also carried out agitating and destructive movements. The governments of Dr Bidhan

Chandra Roy and later Chandra Sen were severely stricken with these agitations. Ajoy Mukherjee brought change in West Bengal politics by ending Chandra Sen's rule. Sen recklessly sent police to the houses of rich farmers and recovered hoarded grains, and that was the cause of their anger toward his government. Removing Sen, Ajoy Mukherjee became the chief minister, but he could not survive. During his chief ministership he had to put up with lots of insults. The CPM used to purposely humiliate him. He was hurt with taunts and ridicules inside the Writers Building (the seat of West Bengal government) itself. In protest against CPM, chief minister Ajoy Mukherjee went on a hunger strike at Curzon Park. There every day, CPM cadres openly made faces at him and said 'come monkey, eat a banana.' The political power of West Bengal was transferred from Ajoy Mukherjee's hand to Siddhartha Shankar Ray's and finally went to Jyoti Basu. Chief Minister Jyoti Basu belonged to Dhaka and Promod Dasgupta-the dominant and powerful CPM secretary for West Bengal state-was from Barisal. Muzaffar Ahinad was senior to both of them and he belonged to Nowakhali. As Harekrishna Konar, Benoy Chowdhuri and Saroj Mukherjee hailed from West Bengal, the basic power of the CPM party or government did not come to their hands, that remained with the Bangals. The majority of the CPM cadres were also Bangals. Without studying-the importance of-the 'Bangal' factor in West Bengal politics, one can never understand the mystery behind the failure of the Congress Party and the coming to power of the CPM and the Left Front.

The tragedy with the BJP is that it says many things against infiltration but if the infiltrators are Hindu, they count them as refugees and demand their asylum. Unlike the CPM, it never scrutinized the political potential of the refugee population or drew up political programs with them. Compared to the Congress or Communist parties, BJP could have become the dearest party to the more than 10 million people who came from East Bengal. Along with this failure, the BJP has also failed to uphold themselves as sons of the soil in West Bengal. Earlier, they had no appeal for the student community, nor even for teachers, professors or intellectuals. The pro-BJP Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh [Indian Workers Union] is the biggest trade union of the country, but its influence is limited among the West Bengal working class. The BJP did not set up any suitable organization to work for the farmers in this state. The life of the people of the lower middle class and middle class in the state is stricken with problems, but the BJP has never started any agitation amongst them. The BJP leaders in this state did not mold their own outlook and thinking in the backdrop of the innumerable problems and crises of Bengali society and thereby have not accumulated

strength over here on their own merit. If they could present proper leadership no one could hold back the BJP in this state. [passage omitted]

There is no end to scrambling for position inside [West Bengal's BJP] party. It is a small party, but inside there goes on terrible fight among different groups. Even recognized leaders are being ousted from the party every now and then. Criticism is considered as enmity. Those intellectuals who demonstrated sympathy to the BJP were insulted and pushed away. The BJP could not attract any particular class or sector of society in West Bengal toward it. Not a single section of the society gives firm support to the BJP and that is why there is so much fluctuation in the number of votes they receive in different elections. One of the main reasons of BJP's failure in this state is that no definite section of the society has come forward to extend support to its philosophy and views. That is why the BJP's appeal remains dependent on momentary emotional feelings. When the movement on the Ramjanmabhumi [birth place of lord Rama] temple was at its height, a large number of devotees sacrificed their lives in police firing and two youngmen from Calcutta became martyrs; the Bengalis of the state woke up in the wave of that passionate outburst. That resulted in an increase of votes for the BJP. But the organizational acumen and inventive genius for upholding that passion was not available among the BJP, Rashtriya Swayamasevak Sangh [RSS] or Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP-World Hindu Association] circles in the state. As the BJP remained in an inert state in the sphere of political movement during the long period of the Left Front government rule, a foundation of public support for it was not built. The Congress also did not fulfill its responsibility as the opposition party in the state. They never even lodged a protest against the corruption, waywardness and anti-people activities of the Left Front government either inside or out of the legislative assembly. The role of the BJP also remained exactly like that of the Congress Party. However, the Congress got relief when Mamata Banerjee, the leader of the Yuva [youth] Congress, challenged the inactiveness of the state Congress leadership. Launching one agitation after another against the Jyoti Basu government, she reached the peak of public popularity and along with it also revived to a great extent the popularity of the Congress Party. Despite having the bright example of Mamata Banerjee in front of them, the leadership of the state BJP did not put its steps on the path of agitation and, therefore, a desire also did not occur in the minds of the people to turn their heads toward it. Noticing the hurricane advance of Mamata Banerjee, the incapable BJP leaders were burning in jealousy. The day Mamata Banerjee was humiliated in the hands of the police at

the hallway in front of Jyoti Basu's room in the state secretariat during his presence, and on the same night she had to stay in the Lalbazar police lockup, the state BJP leaders, instead of condemning the brutal acts of the Left Front government, attacked Mamata Banerjee in vile language. On that day the public turned their face away from the BJP.

Even after all these incidents a wave might flow in favor of the BJP in West Bengal politics. The principal reason for it is that the people are confused and perturbed over the formation of the cock-and-bull United Front government at the national level with Congress support. They are left with only one remaining all-India party to turn to, and that is the BJP. The BJP is the only alternative to the Congress-United Front alliance. At the center the CPM is a partner to the United Front and, therefore, the Congress and CPM are now allies. As a result of the creation of this novel relationship, the CPM and the Congress Party are bound to each other in West Bengal. The CPM will no longer fill the walls with graffiti depicting scandals involving hawala (money laundering), sugar, telecom and shares, and the Congress will also have to digest CPM's insults. Mamata Banerjee will be in an embarrassing situation because Narasimha Rao has crushed her anti-CPM political base. The general public will consider this policy of Congress-CPM amity at the Center, but enmity in West Bengal, as a hoodwink. In this situation the BJP might emerge as the only opposition party in West Bengal. Meanwhile, reports are circulating that many supporters of the CPM and the Congress are deserting their parties and leaning toward the BJP because they are of the opinion that by remaining committed to its principles and policies the BJP was ready to lose government power, as they did after the demolition of the Bahri Masjid [mosque] in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan and also recently, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government at the center. The Congress, the CPM and all other remaining parties, on the other hand, quickly abandon their own proclaimed policies in their greed for power. By following the policies and programs declared by the United Front at the center, the CPM thereby made obsolete all its promises given in its election manifesto. The party workers too, could not accept this opportunism and deception of the public and thus, a revolt took place in the CPM. The situation was also the same in the Congress especially because it was not possible for Congress workers to appear overnight in a different role and embrace the rowdy CPM cadres as 'brothers,' not even if Somen Mitra [president of the West Bengal Congress Party] ordered them to do so. The state BJP leaders have failed in all respects, but still are part of a strong all-India party. It is not possible for them to disregard the central BJP leadership and practice

local opportunistic-sheltered politics. Even if some its leaders maintain secret ties with the CPM, the BJP will never turn into its stooge party. There are many leaders in the state Congress Party who will comply with the CPM orders because the Congress high command itself flatters Jyoti Basu time and again. If some of the state BJP leaders desire to do such a thing, they won't be able to go further because it is impossible for the BJP central leadership to have an entente with the CPM. Especially after the formation of the United Front government at the Center, the gulf between the BJP and the CPM has increased. There is still a possibility for the BJP to come out as a strong party in this state because the CPM, and under its leadership the Left Front, are moving toward decadence and the Congress is baffled. The historical role of the CPM and the Congress has been totally spent up and thus, the BJP will get the call to fill up the vacuum in [Bengal] state politics. It requires, however, leadership.

In Order To Defeat CPM Many BJP Supporters Voted For Congress:

This time the BJP made Muzaffar Khan its candidate from Satgachiya to fight against Chief Minister Jyoti Basu. The BJP calculated that they would get unhappy Congressmen for sure, and also the traitors in the CPM. Moreover, Muslims were about 21 percent of the voters. A section [of Muslims] which were anti-CPM, could also be brought in and at the same time it would be shown to the whole Muslim world that the BJP had nominated a minority young-Turk like Muzaffar Khan as its candidate against a prestigious rival like the chief minister. The BJP received a favorable result from their calculations, if not from the whole state, at least in Satgachiya. Just when the BJP vote was reduced in different districts, it had an increase in Satgachiya. However, there could be a dispute as to how much credit for this should go to the party or to Muzaffar Khan himself for this achievement. But Muzaffar Khan did not make any mistake in the steps that was required to fight with a tough candidate like Jyoti Basu. He appeared before the public prior to the Congress and contested evenly with his two rivals. That is why the question is raised in the BJP as to why a young leader like Muzaffar could do in Satgachiya what was not done at other places.

On 8-9 June, a session of the BJP state committee was held in Calcutta and there many people expressed different views on the chaos existing in the state party. Various kinds of arguments were made and discussions were also held on the role of the RSS; The influence of the Jana Sangh was never remarkable in founder member Shyam Prasad Mukherjee's own state. Although

many notable people came in touch with this party at different times and in different ways, they could never project it as a strong party in the eyes of the general masses in West Bengal. Moreover, even after the declaration of the emergency in 1975, the RSS trained party leaders and workers, like in other states, also secretly and steadfastly carried on their activities in West Bengal against the Congress and went even to jail. At that time the CPI was underground and Jyoti Basu and his group maintained communications with a large number of the BJP leaders. He used to discuss through BJP leaders the issue of his and CPM's support to Jayaprakash Narain's movement. There was days when due to fear that the news could reach the police if the meetings were held in any house, Jyoti Basu went round and round the Calcutta Maidan region sitting in a car and talked to the BJP leaders. But after the lifting of emergency when the CPM emerged holding hands with Profulla Sen, the existence of the BJP in this state was not felt in that manner. Since the Left Front came to power, a speedy political division started among voters in West Bengal — on one side, the Left Front's CPM and, on the other — the Congress Party. Despite this division, a feeling of despair developed among a section of anti-Left Front people. They started thinking that the Congress Party, torn by mutual conflict and acting as an agent of the CPM, would not be able to do anything. In other words, depending on Congress, the CPM could not be removed from the power in the state. On the other side, it is the belief of an angry section of staunch anti-Congress Left Front supporters, that after coming to the government a serious moral degradation has come to their leaders and the left principles and policies have perished. These Left Front supporters were looking for an alternative. Over and above this, there already existed an overwhelming appeasement of minorities. Under such a favorable situation the BJP emerged in the 1991 voting and surprised political circles. There was no precedence in the history of West Bengal politics in the capturing of votes in this manner without having any organization. On average, the BJP pulled 11 to 13 percent of the votes practically in all voting centers. The bigger chunk of these voters were anti-Left Front and Congress supporters. The outcome of this voting was advantageous to the Left Front and caused a loss for the Congress. The BJP leadership in this state could not build in the past 5 years the type of organizational base a party requires to uphold a suddenly acquired popularity. Instead, they engaged in group squabbling: Besides all this, one of the big reasons for the reduction in BJP votes in this election is that many of those persons who wanted to defeat the CPM or the Left Front, despite reluctance, instead of putting their marks next to the lotus [party symbol of the BJP] voted for the

Congress. They might be mentally supporting the BJP, but by casting such a vote they did not want to give an advantage to the Left Front.

India: Prime Minister Justifies Hike in Petroleum Prices

BK1707161896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister said that there was no other option for the government but to raise the prices of petroleum products though it was a painful decision. Replying to a short duration discussion in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr. H.D. Deve Gowda ruled out any further reduction in the hike of prices of petroleum products. He said if the prices had not been increased, several of the public sector oil companies would have been forced to default on international commitments adversely affecting the credibility of the country. The prime minister said all the parties should now cooperate for mobilizing funds to fulfill the basic needs of the poor by diverting subsidies from the richer sections.

Earlier, participating in the discussion members from almost all the parties, excepting the Janata Dal, criticized the government's move to raise the prices. Initiating the discussion, Mr. V. Narayanaswami, Congress, said the steep hike will be a heavy burden on the common man. Later, not satisfied with the prime minister's reply, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munetra Kazhagam] members staged a walk-out.

Iran

Iran: Velayati Welcomes EU Stance on U.S. Helms-Burton Law

LD1707123096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati has appreciated the recent position of the European Union [EU] against the hasty U.S. decision of stepping up sanctions against Cuba.

In an exclusive interview with the AFP, Dr. Velayati considered the resistance of the EU foreign ministers against the American Helms-Burton Law another defeat for the imposed U.S. policies, adding that such posturings show that European countries are able to counter U.S.-imposed viewpoints and decision-makings and act independently on the basis of the interests of their nations.

Stepping up U.S. sanctions against Cuba was put into effect as of yesterday, but due to threats and pressures

of the EU, Canada and Mexico, the embargo was postponed for six months.

At the end of the interview Dr. Velayati expressed hope that the EU will from now on take similar decisions against the United States on the international arena.

Iran: Tehran Views Clinton's 'Clear Retreat' on Helms-Burton Law

LD1707224596 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1130 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A U.S. State Department spokesman, [on] Tuesday 16th July, announced: U.S. President Bill Clinton has shelved the implementation of part of anti-Cuban punitive measures for six months. According to the spokesman, with Clinton's signature, one of the most important points of the Helms-Burton law — which allows Americans to sue foreign companies active in Cuba — will be rendered invalid. Most political experts believe such a shift of policy by Clinton is a clear retreat in the face of the growing wave of international opposition against U.S. unilateral policies taken to confront independent countries.

The Helms-Burton bill came into being based on a policy of stepping up sanctions against Cuba last March, following the downing of two U.S. planes, which had violated Cuba's airspace, by Cuban fighter planes. Later the bill was signed into law by the U.S. Congress and administration. The Helms-Burton law aims at preempting foreign investment in Cuba in order to pressure that country by cutting off its economic ties with other countries. Though the U.S. administration seemed to be cocksure about the success of the bill, opposition voiced by most countries to step up the sanctions against Cuba has given rise to concern among U.S. statesmen.

Since the ratification of the bill, EU countries, Organization of the American States, Russia, Japan, China and many other countries have stepped against it. Mounting waves against the Helms-Burton law have engulfed former U.S. allies and trade parties, spilling over to NAFTA states, so-much-so that Canada and Mexico have joined the European Union and threatened to take retaliatory measures should the U.S. go ahead with the implementation of the bill.

Political experts believe Clinton's new decision and the clear retreat of the United States administration in the face of growing international opposition is to be evaluated from two different angles. First the opposing countries, including main economic poles, are concerned over the expansionist policies adopted by the

United States, now place countering Washington's one-sided policies on the top of their agenda. Secondly, another setback in America's foreign policy, [?at the head] Bill Clinton, will undoubtedly deal the American president a strong blow ahead of the U.S. presidential elections.

Iran: Commentary Views U.S. 'New Defeat' Over Helms-Burton Law

LD1707102496 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian* 0345 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As expected, yesterday [16 July], U.S. President Bill Clinton was forced to postpone [the implementation of] part of the secondary sanctions law, known as the Helms-Burton law, because of increasing pressure from Western countries and after European Union ministers issued a decisive ultimatum, demanding the annulment or suspension of the law. [passage omitted]

In the opinion of analysts, Bill Clinton's decision to postpone part of the Helms-Burton law for six months is a clear retreat and a new defeat in the United States' foreign policy based on interference [in other countries], something that will place Clinton in a difficult position domestically and internationally. Nonetheless, the postponement of clause three of the said law, which gives U.S. companies that were seized during the Cuban revolution the right to lodge complaints against foreign companies that invest in Cuba, is an incomplete measure that will not meet the demands of the European Union and of other countries. As Jacques Santer has said, in view of the postponement of clause three and the fact that it has not been eliminated, the harmful extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton law still remain, and, for this reason, the European Union still intends to respond.

These remarks, made by the head of the European Commission, and subsequent statements by European officials reveal that the European Union does not consider the steps taken by Washington to postpone part of the said law to be adequate. These countries, rather, wish to see the complete annulment of the Helms-Burton law and of similar instances regarding U.S. sanctions against other countries. The possibility still remains, therefore, that the European Union will retaliate against the unilateral decisions taken by the United States on international commerce.

However, the conclusion that can be clearly drawn from Clinton's retreat is that, as long as the United States does not face a serious obstacle, it continues its willful

behavior in international relations, but, as soon as it meets with serious resistance, it has no choice but to retreat. This fact makes it evident to independent countries that the only way to deal with the United States' greed is to stand up to the willful decisions of the White House.

Iran: Larijani—Americans Feel 'Seriously Insecure' in Gulf

LD1707173396 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
13 Jul 96 pp 1, 20

["America Caught in Whirlpool in Persian Gulf" — Editorial by Mohammad Javad Larijani]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. The invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime provided Washington with a good opportunity to bring the entire southern region of the Persian Gulf under its total military occupation.

On the eve of the disintegration of the Soviet empire, many people thought that the age of militarism had reached its peak and that in future, international rivalries and competitions would take place merely in a political and economic context. Without a doubt, this was a hasty conclusion, because competition in a purely economic and political context is not an easy task for Washington. For this reason, the use of the military lever has now become far more extensive than ever before.

American statesmen, just like the emperors of the Middle Ages, consider the military option to be an easy and profitable investment which can put the interventionist party in a position of relative advantage in a number of other fields as well. America has therefore decided to station its military forces all over the Persian Gulf and the Arab states on its southern shores.

2. In the same way that direct and blatant military intervention is a long-standing mode of operation, its results and consequences are also well-known.

After some time, America finally concluded that the traditional structures present in the countries of the region were not commensurate with its particular objectives. It, therefore, started an extensive program of de-Islamization, under the pretext of nurturing modernism and democracy.

The people of the region, on the other hand, did not waste any time. They welcomed this opportunity and immediately began to raise their cries of protest. The rulers of Washington, however, quickly realized that the wave of popular protest was in fact following a completely different aim; that is to say that the people were objecting to the continued interference by foreigners, corruption among their rulers, and the

squandering of their national wealth. People, moreover, were calling for the rejuvenation of Islam!

3. The other dimension of this political milieu is also interesting: The regional governments, which have served the domination of foreigners over the region in the best possible way, have realized that they have been harmed to a significant degree by the whole affair. After all, these governments are totally unable to stand up to the wolf that they have let into their homes. For this reason, it is not all that far-fetched to think that they too are pleased, albeit in secret, with the wave of popular protest against the presence of foreign forces in their countries!

Such a trend has caused the wrath of Washington's statesmen to such an extent that every one of them has been complaining about the local officials' lack of sincere cooperation in combating the wave of popular protest. Things have deteriorated to the point that the U.S. Secretary of Defense has asked for all military-security patrols in [Saudi] Arabia to be carried out jointly by American and Arab forces!

4. The next chapter too is unfolding in a predictable manner: The Americans are feeling seriously insecure and unsafe in the region, and every minute, the foreign forces are waiting for yet one more bomb explosion. A simple formula has therefore been put forward: The dispatch of more forces to ensure the safety of the existing ones! But this is exactly like falling into a deadly whirlpool, because each extra contingent of forces is another target for the opposition. The formula, consequently, only adds to the vulnerability of the American forces.

In fact, the American empire cannot be that far from what ultimately became of the British empire. The American statesmen must realistically acknowledge that after the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the waves of Islamic awakening have spread across the Muslim world, and the Islamic ummah has become very sensitive toward interference and domination by foreigners.

Moreover, at present, even all the most latent features of domination and hegemony have become apparent, let alone those of open and direct military intervention, which is intervention in its most scandalous form. Those statesmen who choose to close their eyes to realities will surely drag their nations into horrific whirlpools.

Iran: U.S. 'Spiteful' Behavior Causes 'Isolation' at G-7 Summit

NC1507152396 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 30 Jun 96 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "America's Isolation at the G-7 Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The spiteful behavior of Washington's officials toward the Islamic Republic of Iran isolated America in the G-7 summit in Lyon.

This is not the first time that White House officials have declared a political-propaganda war against Iran in a bid to call on their allies to blindly pursue the policies that they want to dictate to these allies but have been met with a negative response. Clinton went to the Lyon summit with great hopes. He tried to incite propaganda blackmail regarding the recent explosion at the American servicemen's headquarters in Saudi Arabia and to attribute everything to the Islamic Republic of Iran. But he acted so illogically that he was "booed" at the G-7 summit. Actually he had nothing new to say, and he aimed a bunch of empty and repetitive accusations at Iran, hoping that this time the G-7 heads would be convinced to inflict pressures on Iran.

Clinton probably thought that the heads of the G-7 countries were as naive as he is. But at the Lyon conference, the G-7 heads were able to render America inactive very quickly. And this is how Clinton failed. During the past few days, the European press and especially the French press aimed the sharp edge of their attacks at America's demagogic attempts. They consider America's disgusting initiatives in the Middle East to be the main root for the public discontent in the region and for the recent incidents.

It was probably America's disgraceful isolation at the Lyon conference that made the officials in Washington take back their initial accusation, deny all accusations of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Dhahran incident, and say that they are apparently waiting for the outcome of investigations and that they will not accuse anyone until then! But the reckless behavior of the Washington officials has given rise to the possibility that the Dhahran explosion may have been a contrived incident and one of the joint CIA-Pentagon masterpieces; it was carried out on the eve of the G-7 summit so that the issue of terrorism could be brought up and the accusations against those who disagree with American policies could become a good propaganda issue.

Nevertheless, America's spiteful stand and behavior toward Iran reveal all the other issues more clearly. The American assistant secretary of state very angrily stated that "we want to harm Iran's economy," while

he simultaneously confessed that Washington is alone and isolated in this attempt and that these anti-Iranian policies will succeed only when America's allies obey the policies that Washington dictates.

Of course, the answer of the G-7 heads to Clinton's calls was foreseeable from the very start. America's allies are certainly not prepared to voluntarily let go of Iran's profitable markets in order to please Washington and to help America to achieve its objectives and interests and to be in the same position that America is in today — a position that it is angrily trying to rid itself of.

Washington's allies have not forgotten that Washington has always tried to thwart activities by others — even its allies — wherever America has set foot. For example, can European and American interests in Saudi Arabia and in other countries in the region be compared? Is the role of Europe and America the same in the Middle East?

It is precisely because of this that Europe and America have reached a "point of proportional confrontation" vis-a-vis the region's countries. The clear meaning behind this is that although today Europe confronts America's anti-Iranian policies, it is adopting these decisions merely within the framework of its own interests. We should never count on the fact that Europe regards the Islamic Republic of Iran positively because any optimistic assessment in connection with this is tantamount to naivete and will merely give rise to wrong impressions about who our friends and foes are. Such wrong assessments can be very harmful.

Europe's expressions of conditional friendships with Iran can find their true meaning only when viewed from this angle. And it is by understanding this point that we can base our relations with the outside world on the basis of genuine and tangible facts. We should not optimistically put all our eggs in one basket so that tomorrow we will not be harmed by the slightest change in others' policies toward us.

Iran: Papers on U.S. Support for Israel, Need for Arab Response

LD1607084996 Tehran IRNA in English
0759 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Two English-language dailies Tuesday [16 July] editorialized on relations between the U.S. and Israel, stressing that the Arabs and Muslims should be more concerned about their future.

"It is sad that the Jewish state and the U.S. have made a mockery of all international norms and values,

while countries, big and small, remain deaf and dumb spectators," **TEHRAN TIMES** said.

As to U.S. support for the Israeli premier Binyamin Netanyahu's proposed "security for peace", it wrote that this latest display of how the U.S. wavers in its support for the Arabs and its unconditional support of the Jewish state should prod Arabs and the world's Muslims in general to examine the future which lies ahead of them in the wake of this historic development.

On final communique issued by the eight Arab countries, it stated that while they may have realized that normalization of relations with the Jewish state would be futile if Netanyahu insists on his policies, they fail to go all the way out in negating the talks itself for the reason that the broker, the U.S., is actually encouraging the Israeli occupiers to violate the terms of any agreement already reached with them.

"The ball is now in the court of the Arabs and Muslims," **TEHRAN TIMES** noted, concluding they should take a hard stand by forcing the Likud Party to change its position and comply with the U.N. resolutions.

Another daily **'IRAN NEWS'** also wrote that the Islamic Republic of Iran, from the very first day of the culmination of the Islamic revolution supported the oppressed Palestinians whose lands have been usurped by Israel with the active assistance of the Zionist lobby in the United States.

"Iran extended its support to the oppressed Palestinians and deprived Lebanese even at the cost of its own national interests," it said, adding the U.S. is the enemy of Iran because this country has cut off its brutal hands from itself and insists that others do the same. The editorial further underlined that no power, or superpower, can oppress and exploit other nations if all the countries in the world, particularly the third world, through a common strategy, support each other in the fight against superpower hegemonies and other exploitative political concepts.

Commenting on meeting of the eight Arab foreign ministers in Muscat, it stated that the U.S., under an inexperienced leader has lost credibility as an honest broker.

Iran: Arab Unity Needed To Counteract Israeli Strategy

LD1707194696 *Tehran IRAN NEWS in English*
14 Jul 96 pp 2, 13

[Unattributed Commentary: "Keep Arab Unity Intact"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Since 29th May victory of extremist Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, Arab

leaders in the Middle East have demonstrated a certain measure of unity.

The 22nd-23rd June Arab Summit in Cairo warned Israel's right-wing government to pursue the policy of "land-for-peace" or face the end of normalizing relations with Arab states.

So far no other country has changed its commitment to peace which was agreed upon in the Egyptian capital. However, two significant developments have been reported from Qatar and Oman who last year decided to establish economic ties with Israel.

The two Persian Gulf countries agreed to exchange trade missions with Israel, but decided not to assume diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv. After the recent stances adopted by the Zionist regime, the two countries reportedly froze their ties with the Zionist entity.

Though neither Israel nor the United States have publicly admitted it, recent reports coming from those countries clearly indicated that the Arab unity has become a source of concern for them.

As a so-called goodwill gesture on Friday [12 July] Netanyahu announced that he planned to "put Israeli-Egyptian relations back on track" and said, "Egypt could serve as a bridge between Israel and other Arab states."

Netanyahu made this statement after his first visit to the United States where he met with Bill Clinton and reiterated that he would not stick to the commitments made by his predecessor, Shimon Peres for "land-for-peace strategy".

Israeli prime minister's so-called "goodwill gesture" is nothing but a serious bid for marrying the present fragile unity among Arab rulers. Both Israel and the United States know very well that disputes still exist among the Arab leaders.

The so-called goodwill gesture is not aimed at building a bridge, rather, it is a means of creating rifts in the Arab world, and Israel's neighbours, particularly Egypt, have to keep their eyes open in order to safeguard the broader Arab interests.

Israel and the United States should remember that no sane person will oppose true and genuine peace. We wish that the U.S. should understand that an imposed and unjust peace would not last long. The history of the Middle East in the last 50 years clearly proves this bitter fact.

Unity among the Arab countries, though fragile, is important for dealing with the serious threat to peace and stability in the entire region.

Iran: Commentary Criticizes Netanyahu's Speech to U.S. Congress

LD1607163996 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English
13 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Netanyahu's Congress Speech Raises Questions With Answers"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's 30-minute address at the U.S. Congress on Wednesday (10 July) made it crystal-clear — better than any other time in the past — that neither the United States nor the illegitimate entity, Israel, is sincere in their claim that they want peace in the Middle East.

Those who have kept a close eye on the developments in the Middle East's 50-year history can easily anticipate that an armed struggle by the oppressed, whose lands have been usurped by the Zionists, is ahead.

Armed struggle means a series of explosions, small- and large-scale wars as well as a comprehensive plan for purging Zionist and oppressors' spies and agents from the region. All this could be the order of the day in that part of the world as it happened in the 1980's.

Who will be responsible? Those whose lands have been occupied? Those who are made homeless? Those whose family members were massacred even while they were in UN refugee camps?

Or those who trampled the basic human rights of the Arabs and the Palestinians? Those who insulted the world body by throwing its resolutions in the trash can and received rousing applause by the U.S. lawmakers and self-styled champion of human rights and democracy? Those who made commitments before international public opinion and then simply disregarded them?

One should find answer to these questions on the basis of one's own test and experiences. All we know is that the political horizon in the Middle East is shrouded in ambiguity, and as the French President Jacques Chirac remarked last week, any hindrance in the way of peace process will result in violence and make the region volatile again.

It is really a shame that the U.S. lawmakers should pay glowing tribute to a person who ridiculed the international commitments his country made during the course of the 1993 peace initiative sponsored first by Washington itself.

The deprived and oppressed should not be blamed if the American and the Zionist stakes across the world in general and particularly in the Middle East are made targets of any brand of blow.

None but the inexperienced President Bill Clinton, who agreed to close the Palestinian offices in Jerusalem, will be responsible if 1980's history is repeated in Lebanon and elsewhere.

The Arab nations should not be confused or frustrated. And above all they should not be afraid. They should unite themselves and channel funds to the freedom fighters who know how to bring the U.S. administration and Zionist lobby in America to their knees. That is the only way for the Arab world to regain its past glory.

Iran: Velayati Hints Britain To Blame for Blocked EU Accord

NC1707124296 Paris AFP in English
1026 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Tehran, July 17 (AFP)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Wednesday (17 July) hinted that Britain blocked an accord with the European Union to end a dispute over British author Salman Rushdie, condemned to death here for allegedly insulting Islam.

Velayati said in an interview with AFP that Iran and the EU had been near to an agreement and were "about to solve the problem" in late 1995 when Spain held the rotating EU presidency.

"We could reach a formula to address reservations on both sides within the critical dialogue" underway between Iran and the 15-member EU in the past three years, he said, without giving details about the would-be accord.

"But near the end some Spanish (official) informed us of reservations from one country and asked us to stop the (negotiation) process," the minister added.

"Till now we have not received any logical explanation ... because of the reservations of one country out of the 15 it stopped ... from our side there was no sabotage against the process," he said.

Velayati did not name the country he was referring to but did not deny it was Britain. [passage omitted]

Iran: Accusations by Britain's Hurd Against Iran Discussed

NC1707133696 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian
4 Jul 96 pp 1, 15

[Political commentary: "British Logic—In the Margin of Douglas Hurd's Comments on Iran"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Britain's Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd has said: "There are no facts to prove that

Iran was not involved in the recent incidents in Saudi Arabia!!"

In all the international legal systems, there is one common principle that cannot be marred and that is highlighted in Articles 6 and 11 of the International Human Rights Declaration, in Article 1 of the General Assembly Declaration of 1965, and in the UN Charter — it is that "the principle is acquittal, unless proven otherwise." But, apparently, in the logic of the British, the principle is accusation unless proven otherwise!

The interesting point is that initially, even America, which had attributed the explosion in Dhahran to Iran, was forced to immediately recall its accusation and to state that there is no evidence of Iran's involvement in the Dhahran explosion. But apparently the British do not want to give up and they insist on saying that Iran was involved in the incident and that if this is not so, then prove it!!

Clearly, everyone rejects this logic. But if we do accept Douglas Hurd's logic and want to generalize it to apply to every country, particularly Britain, we will reach interesting conclusions, because on this basis Britain also will have to produce evidence that it is not involved in the various explosions, assassinations, sabotage, and incidents in various places!

But the propagation of this type of theory, which can only be whipped up by a statesman like Hurd, will plunge the international arena into unprecedented chaos.

But the truth is that blaming violent incidents on Iran is a scenario composed by the CIA and Mosad, copies of which have been sent to their friends to coordinate operations. Therefore, it is not without cause that each incident — be it in Argentina, France, Germany, Britain, Saudi Arabia, or America — is immediately attributed to Iran, without feeling the slightest need to produce any evidence.

For a long time now this rusty weapon has lost its effectiveness. The answer to why the British foreign minister made such baseless remarks after the G-7 summit and in tandem with the anniversary of the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by America should be sought in "the logic of the British."

Iran: Egypt 'Hinting' at Relations With Iran

NC1707154596 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Jul 96
p 14

[Commentary by Mohammad Imani: "Relations With Iran—Egypt's Political Maneuvers or Preemptive Move?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For quite some time, the Egyptian media and press have been citing officials from Egypt and some neutral countries hinting about their leaning toward an improvement of relations between Egypt and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Earlier, during his visit to Cairo, the Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar' expressed his interest in improving relations between Egypt and Iran, and was optimistic on the possibilities.

Two days ago, the London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper cited an official Egyptian source on Egypt's concurrence on holding a ministerial session of Iran, Syria, and Egypt. However, a contradictory report was also published in this regard. The U.S. radio sought to preempt the move and charge the atmosphere to suit its own motives. This radio cited Usamah al-Baz, Egypt's first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's office for Political Affairs, as if insinuating that it was Iran that was eager to mend fences.

He was quoted as saying: "Iran intends to improve relations with Cairo, but the Tehran government should prove that it will not interfere in the internal affairs of the Arab littoral states of the Persian Gulf (!)" Al-Baz claimed that Iran supports the extremist Islamists who are opposed to the Cairo government.

However, the official declaration of views on the issue came from President Husni Mubarak himself, who rejected the proposal of a tripartite meeting among the ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Iran as he claimed that Iran was taking steps against some Arab countries. Husni Mubarak stated that Iran is using this notion for its own propaganda and follows a hostile policy against the Arab countries.

With the above introductory remarks we can note and stress the following points:

1. The Egyptian Government is a non-conformist one, which once again cast a slur on the Middle East compromise by boosting its relations and closeness with the occupied Jerusalem regime which, in turn, resulted in promoting Israel's further acceptance among Arab countries and extricated it from its isolation. The earlier signing of the shameful Camp David Accord highlights the special position of Egypt in fostering peace between Arabs and Israel.

2. The convocation of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit for the "sloganeering" condemnation of terrorism, which it attributed to Iran, as well as the recent extraordinary Arab session — which was intended to adopt decisions against the threats by Netanyahu, but, in practice, evolved into a front against the Islamic Republic of Iran — is an example of the hostility of the misanthropic Husni Mubarak regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the concept of a return to pure and true Islam.

To the above factors, we can also add extensive repression, imprisonment, and executions.

3. As can be gleaned from the propaganda of the past few weeks, the Egyptian regime — if it really has been interested in improving relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran — is seeking to convey the impression that the Islamic Republic of Iran is in need of such relations, as implied by the president and his adviser. In this manner, it is seeking to adopt a superior posture with regard to relations with Iran.

The manner in which the press and radios — including the American radio — are disseminating the news indicates that the United States is taking the initiative on an issue, although it is not at all keen on such an eventuality materializing. It is seeking to create a climate in favor of the Egyptian regime in possible talks, and on the issue of relations, in a way that implies that it is Iran, and not the Egyptian regime, that is interested in relations.

4. While expressing appreciation for the Syrian Government's efforts for improving relations among Muslim countries, including Iranian-Egyptian relations, we should mention a very subtle point that should not be considered unlikely. This is that, with the coming into power of an extremist and prejudiced government under Netanyahu, the Egyptian regime is apprehensive of any fridity permeating its half-baked relations with Israel and the possibility of greater threats by that country against Egypt.

Hence, in order to motivate Israel to improve relations, Egypt has embarked on a political maneuver so that Israeli public opinion and government are warned of the dangers of any animosity or adoption of hardline policies against Egypt.

Perhaps by disseminating news of closeness to Iran, Egypt is seeking to show the Israelis that it has room to maneuver and, in the event of hostility or opportunism from the Israelis, it can get close to Iran. Hypothetically, relations with Iran would then be a mere ploy for extracting privileges from Israel.

5. In the light of the above preliminary observations it appears that a logical, mature, and strategic (well-

planned) course, based on "honor, wisdom, and expediency," and formulated by our foreign policy officials, is necessary for dealing with or "confronting" the issue.

If some day Egypt's inappropriate conduct as regards peace with Israel and imposing it on Arabs, its hostility toward Iran with regard to accords and sessions such as those at Camp David, Sharm al-Shaykh, and so on were to be rectified in some way, relations with this country should be addressed from a point of strength in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy and not from a position of weakness. If any government is to take the first step in imposing preconditions, it should be the Iranian Government.

In any case, the issue of "honor" and "national interests" is a delicate and precise one, which should be incorporated in our planning as a main and mandatory consideration.

Iran: Tehran Radio Denounces Netanyahu's Visit to Egypt

NC1707184496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of Zionist Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's scheduled visit to Egypt on Thursday, 18 July, there is mounting popular and parliamentary reaction denouncing this visit. The opposition parties and angry public opinion demanded that the visit be canceled. Certain Egyptian parties and trade unions called for staging massive demonstrations and protests on Netanyahu's arrival in Cairo. The Zionist rightist prime minister will discuss with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Egypt his new program and plans on so-called peace in the Middle East. The mounting popular rejection of the Zionist enemy prime minister's visit expresses the deep differences in views between the Egyptian people and the ruling regime. This means that public opinion in Egypt does not accept the Zionist presence on Egyptian territory. The Egyptian people are also opposed to the Egyptian regime's playing any role in the so-called normalization of ties between the Arabs and the Zionists.

This opposition intensified, particularly after Netanyahu assumed power in the usurper entity, because the Muslim Egyptian people believe that establishment at any level or form of ties with the Zionist enemy is a great humiliation and contempt for them. This means that the Egyptian regime must avoid making moves that might fulfill the policy of Zionist domination that would bring humiliation and disgrace to Muslims.

Consequently, the wave of mass protests in Egypt indicates that the Egyptian regime's policy and moves to bring about rapprochement with the Zionist enemy have failed. The Egyptian regime has also failed to play an influential role in diverting the attention of Egyptian public opinion from their hatred and historical enmity to the Zionists. The massive popular denunciation of Nentanyahu's visit to Egypt demonstrates the wide gulf between the Egyptian masses and the regime. These masses do not recognize that the Zionist entity is legitimate and view it as a terrorist base in the Islamic region.

Iran: Paper on Foreign Ministry's Handling of Turkish Incident

LD1607155996 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Jul 96
p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Reward for the Turks"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Some people believe that there is one strategy in the sphere of politics which will certainly result in victory and success, and that is the strategy of "passage of time". In their opinion, "passage of time" is a pretext on the basis of which public opinions could be calmed down for a certain period until the attention is centered on fresh subjects and topics resulting from another incident. Then public opinion will forget the old incident with the passage of time. [passage omitted]

Two weeks ago, when Turkish military helicopters attacked the airspace of the Islamic Republic of Iran and left 22 people wounded or killed, the pressure of public opinion forced the officials of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry and our country's other officials to demand a speedy investigation of the incident as well as pay compensation for moral and financial damage of the incident.

Following the incident, it was agreed that a Turkish delegation should come to Iran to give an explanation, to apologize officially and to pay compensation. The delegation headed by a Turkish deputy interior minister finally arrived in Tehran last Monday [8 July] in order to participate in a meeting of the Iran-Turkey high security commission. In a news conference, he announced that his country was still investigating the aggression by the army helicopters.

The Turkish official made one interesting point and said that his country accepts responsibility for the attacks carried out by that country's helicopters in 1372 [21 March 1993 - 20 March 1994] and was ready to pay compensation for financial and moral damage caused by the incident.

How can Turkish officials react to the dignity, open-mindedness, and restraint showed by the Islamic Republic by responding in such a manner to logical and rational expectations of the Iranian nation?

What do they achieve by harming the feelings and sentiments of the Iranian nation to such an extent? The comments made by Turkish officials seem more like a joke than expressions of opinion about the result of an investigation of the incident.

It seems as if the Turks have forgotten that the latest incident endangered the lives of 22 innocent people, when they deliver a reward for resolving the incident which occurred three years ago.

If our country's Foreign Ministry had taken seriously the offensive against Iran's airspace in 1372 and had insisted on its correct stances, and if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had emphasized the need to restore the rights of the Iranian nation in the incident which occurred in 1372 and had defended the natural rights of its nation, then the incident of 1375 [20 March 96 - 20 March 97] would have never happened.

Iran: Commentary—Turkey Should 'Apologize' to Iran

NC1607211996 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian
2 Jul 96 pp 1, 11

[Political commentary: "Turkey Must Apologize"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish Army has gone overboard in its presumptuousness. The attack on Iran's border residents and the martyring of women and children is not something that can simply be ignored, because this is not the first time that Turkey's helicopters have violated Iranian airspace on the pretext of crushing PKK Kurdish rebels. Although the Turkish ambassador in Tehran was summoned to the foreign ministry and a note of protest handed to him, and the Foreign Ministry assumed a strong stand on all this, Turkey's presumptuousness has gone so far that it has even refuted reports on this attack! This at a time when two years ago Turkish fighters also attacked Iranian borders and martyred several tribesmen in the Azerbaijan area. At that time Turkey said that the attack was carried out by mistake and promised that it would not be repeated, and that it would also pay compensation to Iran. But not only did it not pay any compensation, but it also did not end its attacks.

Last month, the third secretary of the Turkish Embassy in Tehran killed a mother and daughter because of his drunken driving and very dastardly left the scene, contrary to all human and international laws and norms. The next day he was flown to Turkey with the help

of Turkish Embassy officials, using his diplomatic immunity. We should also recall that Turkey's defense ministry recently signed a military pact with the Zionist regime, under which Israeli fighters have the right to carry out flights over Turkey. This too has raised concern from regional countries. And to top all these, we had the spying incident by Turkish diplomats in Tehran, whose files were revealed by the press a few weeks ago.

What is the Turkish Government after? Does it think that this ridiculing of the Iranian nation will go unanswered? Assuming that Kurdish rebels have sought refuge in Iran — which they have not — does the Turkish Army then have the right to attack Iranian territory? If this is so, then Iran should also preserve the right to bomb Turkey, since the entire Turkish territory is the refuge of Iranian terrorists, murderers, and opposition groups! Can this kind of logic prevail on the international scene?

The protests by Iranian Kurds in front of the Turkish consulates in Urumiyeh and Tabriz, and the protest by university students in Tehran against the Turkish Embassy, as well as the statements by various Iranian officials all manifest the rage and hatred that the Iranian nation feels toward the Turkish Army's aggressive policies. The best and most logical thing for the Turkish Government to do is to clearly and officially apologize to the Iranian nation and government and, in addition to compensating for damages incurred, grant the necessary guarantees that such acts will not be repeated.

Iran: Turkey Called Zionism's New Field

96LH0200A *Tehran IRAN in Persian 9 Apr 96 p 5*

[FBIS Translated Text] Late last week the Zionist regime's news sources happily announced that in a military treaty they had succeeded in obtaining the use of Turkish airspace for their fighter aircraft. This treaty marks the beginning of a new "transformation" in relations between Ankara and Tel Aviv, and it entails great consequences and dangers.

The first reaction from Arab circles, who face most of these dangers, was to describe Ankara's action as an "unforgivable crime." A high-ranking Lebanese official said: With this treaty, Turkey has effectively entered into a state of war with the Arabs and Muslims. The concerns of the Arabs are easily understandable to the other countries, because with this concession a foothold has been opened for the Zionist regime in the most sensitive part of the Middle East and has in a manner of speaking brought the enemy behind the lines.

The basic question is, what factors have caused Ankara to take such a "big risk" in its foreign policy? Just as has been mentioned, the assignment of this important

concession, especially in the current sensitive circumstances, is an issue that goes beyond the relationship and protocols Ankara and Tel Aviv had.

Thus far, relationships and dealings between the Turks and Tel Aviv have dealt mostly with mutual needs and their internal affairs, although the Zionists had requested the expansion of these relations to include regional issues and to have Ankara accept new roles. However the Turkish officials, in view of the sensitivity of the other nations (both Iran and the Arabs) in the region to the presence of the Zionists, and also the dangerous consequences that this could have, had refused to grant the Zionist requests. America also, which usually consults with the Turks at such times, was hesitant about issuing authorization for such cooperation and relations because it would bring on a confrontation between the Turks and the Arabs, consequently complicating conditions in the region.

There is no doubt that for the leaders of the two regimes there is no obstacle ideologically for cooperation and unity, for both sides have declared that secularism and Zionism are intellectual siblings and have a shared view of the world. In view of these points of commonality and ties, since the beginning of the Zionist regime Ankara's leaders have both openly and secretly worked to open the way to relations with Tel Aviv. In view of the alliance with America and in the New World Order, they have also considered themselves reliable friends and partners. In the last five years the two sides have gone through all the stages of and levels of friendship and were on the threshold of "political brotherhood."

The only obstacle to the realization of these ties and resultant motivations was the worries Ankara had expressed in the reactions by the nations in the region, and also from Turkey's domestic Muslims. Turkey's leaders were eagerly seeking an opportunity first of all to change conditions in the Arab nations in the way desired by Tel Aviv, and secondly to get the leaders in the White House to make the decisions necessary to deal with the consequences of bad cooperation from the Zionist regime.

It now appears that the Turks consider their former requests to have been met. The secular Turkish press claims that the Turkish leader has put aside his hesitation about accepting an alliance with the Zionists because of new actions and inclinations he has observed among the Arabs at the Shame of the Sheykh's Conference and afterwards. However the claim that Turkey has made this choice based on its own analysis of conditions in the region does not conform that much either to this country's foreign policy charter or to the existing political realities.

Based on this charter, as a member of the NATO bloc, Ankara will make all of its sensitive regional and international decisions in consultation with the other powers. In the current situation America, as NATO's primary authority, is the only country that supervises the actions and measures taken by this organization's members. America's authority with Ankara has become more obvious in recent years as the ruling body in Turkey has faced domestic and international difficulties. Even in the smallest regional events Ankara's leaders have sought to get new marching orders from the White House, with the goal of strengthening their hand against hard-line domestic factions and regional rivals.

As has been said, for some time America was hesitant about getting Ankara involved in the events of the Middle East, but after the Shame of the Sheykhs Conference it gave the green light for the first time for Tel Aviv to create a "pressure front" in Turkish space. According to the Turkish press, in his latest meeting with Suleyman Demirel, Clinton enthusiastically welcomed the proposal by his Turkish counterpart that Ankara take a new step to remove America's Middle East problems. There is no doubt that Washington will make use of the closeness and the alliance between Tel Aviv and Ankara to bring pressure to bear on the Arabs and to break down the barriers to compromise, especially since America has already taken all the paths to negotiation and bargaining to bring the remaining Arab governments to the process of compromise, and sees no other way to accomplish this task other than "threats" and pressure — of course indirectly and through other governments.

In this activity Washington's basic attention is directed towards Syria, which it expects to adjust its position towards the compromise proposal due to its status as neighbor and rival with Ankara, due to this alliance (Israel and Turkey).

However, apart from America's goals in this alliance as a link between the two aforementioned powers, both parties (Turkey and the Zionist regime) also have separate motivations and desires, but undoubtedly the profit and interest that will come out of this for Tel Aviv is not comparable to the interests of the other side.

While the Zionists share Washington's primary goal, meaning "threatening the Arabs and tightening Syria's position," they are hoping to strengthen their position in relation to two other Middle Eastern nations, Iraq and Iran, through the use of Turkey's military space. The Zionists are watching Iraq's future carefully, and they see the current confusion as a suitable opportunity for activities towards this country. Prior to this, political observers had revealed reports and testimony on the concealed presence of Zionist agents in northern Iraq.

Tel Aviv still considers the people and society of Iraq to be its staunch opponents, and it is worried about this nation's traditional role and position in influencing Western opinion.

Giving Jordan a role to play as the gateway to Iraq plays a role in the new groupings that the Zionists have formed with the Turks, could itself clarify a part of their evil goals, especially since the leaders in Tel Aviv feel that the embargoed society of Iraq has developed a strong interest and leaning towards the Islamic Republic.

The Zionists believe that the defeat of Ba'thist and secular thinking have brought bright success for those with Islamic leanings. In the not-so-distant future these forces will be potential allies for Iran in the region, and if this process is not stopped it will pose a great danger to Zionism and America. At the same time it will elevate Iran to a high position of power in the region.

Along with these political and strategic goals, Tel Aviv is hoping to solve its economic problems, especially its water crisis, through the use of Turkey's abundant water resources. Likewise, the Zionists see abundant trade interests for themselves in the Turkish market and the regions surrounding it. For the Zionist merchants, Turkey is a reliable and appropriate connective bridge to a presence in the markets of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

As for Ankara's goals in this treaty, they are all vague and general. In return for granting this concession, America and the Zionist regime will strengthen the Ankara government's position against domestic and foreign factions, but there is no guarantee that Tel Aviv and Washington will keep their promises.

First of all, this issue points to Turkey's new role and share in the Middle East compromise, which has been designated by Washington. The experience of the Zionist regime's fruitless cooperation with Jordan and Egypt are good indicators for the leaders in Ankara.

On the other hand, however, there is a mass of damaging consequences and outcomes to be seen facing Ankara.

Just as the Arabs and the Arab press have explained, in making this move Turkey has placed itself in opposition to all the Arab and Islamic nations. It is not the political interests of governments that have been put in danger by this latest treaty. Rather their territorial integrity and independence have been placed within range of an expansionist power.

What is cause for wonder here is that at a time when crisis from within and abroad have enveloped their position, Turkey's leaders have entered into such a sensitive game. Even more astonishing is the fact that

many of the threads of this crisis are in the hands of the very governments that Ankara has targeted in its treaty.

Iran: Majles Speaker Condemns India's Kashmir 'Brutalities'

BK1807050296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran has again condemned the Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir. The speaker of the Iranian Majles, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, at a meeting with the speaker of the National Assembly, Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani, in Tehran has said the issue of Kashmir poses a threat to the security of the region. He said by committing brutalities in the held territory, India cannot stop the Kashmiri people from attaining their right. He supported the cause of the Kashmiri people and called for the settlement of the issue according to their wishes. The Iranian leader reiterated the offer of mediation by his country, which was appreciated by the leader of the Pakistani parliamentary delegation.

Iran: Borujerdi Optimistic About Afghan Negotiations

LD1707222496 Tehran IRAN in Persian 14 Jul 96 p 2

[Headline: "America Should Realize that Afghanistan is Not Bosnia — A look at the Afghan Situation in an Exclusive Interview With Borujerdi — "We Are Trying to Get the Taliban To Join the Peace Caravan."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Political desk: The complexities of the Afghan political situation in the past four years have brought with them the bloodiest of civil wars in which thousands have died or been injured. These are the results of various factors, including foreign intervention, fighting between Afghan groups, unstable factionalism and brittle alliances.

To end these wars, which have exhausted the oppressed Afghan people, widespread attempts have taken place, the most important of which is led by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In an exclusive interview with IRAN's political group, [deputy Foreign Minister] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, speaking about the latest Afghan political developments, said: As far as I know currently negotiations are going on between the leader of the Northern National Islamic Movement, General Dostam, and the Afghan government. Efforts are also being made to reach agreement with the jihadi groups opposed to the government.

He considered the likelihood of success for these negotiations and efforts to be very high, and he stressed

that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports them. That, he said, is Iran's constant policy toward Afghanistan.

Mr Borujerdi stressed that our policy is that of encouraging Afghan groups to resolve the crisis through talks and that we have also been — and are — encouraging "Taliban" to avoid confrontation.

Referring to the talks held between Taliban and Iranian representatives in Mashhad, Kandahar, and Herat, this political official said that we are trying to get the Taliban group to join the peace caravan.

Nevertheless, he considered the realization of that to be up to the serious political will of the Taliban group. The deputy foreign minister noted that the strategy of acceding to power by military means — pursued by Taliban — is an undesirable policy, whose inefficiency has been proven in the past four years. It only leads to the massacre of more Muslims.

Replying to a question about relations between Islamabad and Kabul, Mr. Borujerdi said: We hope the relations between these two countries improve. We believe that we will be witnessing the effects of such improvement in the political and military scenes in Afghanistan. But there are serious problems between the two sides.

Mr. Borujerdi added: That idea was strengthened following an American Congress session. But as far as we know — and as the Afghan scene also indicates — that Afghanistan is not Bosnia and any hasty action will exacerbate the complexity of the situation in that country.

Considering the views of Afghan groups about America, he said: In the past few years, when the Islamic Republic of Iran was carrying out continuous efforts to end bloodshed in Afghanistan, the Americans were indifferent and merely supervised. However, now that signs of peace are appearing, the Americans' hasty activities are regarded with suspicion by the Afghan jihadi groups.

In answer to a question about the rumors concerning Iran's support for Esma'il Khan, the governor of Herat, in his attack against Taliban forces, the deputy foreign minister said: The existence of such rumors is not strange, but we reject them. He added: There are hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees living in Iran and there may be some Herat officials among them. But to say that Iran is supporting Esma'il Khan, is not part of our policy. The Islamic Republic of Iran only works to establish peace in that country.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister stressed that if the Afghan groups come to a positive conclusion about a peace conference in Tehran with all the groups participating in it, we will welcome it.

Iran: Syrian Envoy on 'New Chapter' in Arabs' Ties With Tehran

LD1607150596 Tehran IRNA in English
1411 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan said here on Tuesday [16 July] the tone of the statement of foreign ministers of eight Arab states grouped in Damascus treaty has opened a new chapter in the Arabs' firm stand against Israel and understanding with Iran.

Speaking to IRNA, al-Hasan said the foreign ministers of eight Arab states in their latest meeting in Muscat have put emphasis on Syrian stand towards Israel and the need for Tel Aviv to abide by the U.N. resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Al-Hasan said the tone of the statement towards Iran was modest and promising, unlike the previous ones.

The ambassador said, "Now, an appropriate situation has appeared to remove the misunderstandings between Iran and certain Arab countries and I hope that a new chapter will be opened between Tehran and capitals of Arab states."

Al-Hasan said Syria is interested in helping build good relations between Iran on the one side and Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf littoral states on the other.

He said the Zionist regime's officials were pursuing the "divide and rule" policy and that they are making every endeavour to sow discord among Arab states on one hand and the Islamic states on the other and to deepen the current misunderstandings between them.

He said the Zionist regime is dissatisfied with the tone of the Muscat statement, because it is against friendly relations between Tehran and Arab states.

Iran: International Legal System Seen as 'Joke' in Bosnia

LD1707171596 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
14 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed Commentary: "International Legal System: Potent or Impotent?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague has issued international arrest warrants for Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander General Ratko Mladic.

The two Serbs are both charged with two counts of genocide. The first refers to the siege of Sarajevo in which more than 12,000 people died in over three and a half years as Bosnian Serb forces rained shells and sniper fire down on civilians.

The second count accuses the two men of masterminding a bloodbath at the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica where Mladic had promised civilians safety, but then proceeded to kill between 3,000 and 8,000 Muslim men and boys with knives.

Now we are faced with the absurdity of having international arrest warrants, but nobody wants to arrest them. Whenever you tell someone, "Now go and arrest Radovan Karadzic," he says, "I am busy," or, "It's not my job."

Whose job is it to arrest these two men? Is it IFOR's job? IFOR stands for "implementation force" OR... It is the "OR" that is important here. IF the job is too risky for NATO's implementation force, the OR means "or another force". [as published]

IFOR says, "If we see them we will arrest them." That is, if Karadzic is just strolling in the park one day, having bought ice cream for his daughter, and we happen to see him, we will arrest him.

Here we are, having conducted an international tribunal on the second greatest human atrocity in this century (which might also mean "in history"); we have pronounced the two men war criminals; we have issued arrest warrants for them. But we don't know whom to send out for the arrest.

Hardline Bosnian Serbs who see Karadzic and Mladic as heroes have warned of bloody consequences if IFOR makes any attempt to arrest them.

This illustrates relativity. A war criminal in one place is a hero in another. It also shows that we might have another war at hand: to gather the courage to send a group of people to arrest the two men whom an international tribunal has judged to be criminals, or to take the safe route, lay back, just call them criminals, and make a joke of our international legal system.

Iran: France's Efforts To Sell Arms to Gulf Countries Viewed

NC1807070596 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 9 Jul 96
p 12

[Commentary by 'A. A. Niyamanesh: "France in the Search for Military Markets in the Persian Gulf"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time since coming to power as the president of France in 1995, Jacques Chirac toured the Persian Gulf and visited Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The West's political circles assess Chirac's visit as within the framework of French diplomacy's rapid efforts to achieve an active role in the critical region.

Gaullist France has now started an active diplomacy in other parts of the world and especially in crisis areas. In relation with this, it is necessary to recall that when the neo-Gaullists were in power, the crisis-laden and strategic Middle East area witnessed extensive political activities by French diplomacy. On the one hand, Paris's wish to mediate in the territorial disputes between Eritrea and Yemen in the Red Sea and, on the other hand, the dispatch of official parliamentary and trade delegations to Iraq should be mentioned. Moreover, the repeated visits by the French defense and foreign ministers to the Middle East and the intensification of consultations, as well as Paris's decision not to follow the American sanctions against Tehran were among the other efforts of French diplomacy in the region. In addition to this, France's determining presence in the committee monitoring the cease-fire between Lebanon and the regime occupying Jerusalem, which was established with Paris's mediation after the 16-day war in southern Lebanon, manifested the role played by France as an effective country in the political-military scene in this critical region.

The truth is that everyone realized that the neo-Gaullists were trying to revive France's political-military strength in the world when Paris insisted on completing the six phases of its nuclear tests in order to strengthen its atomic strength.

Now, too, the French president has visited the Persian Gulf countries within the framework of the diplomatic onslaught that Paris has started and which stretches from the Middle East to the Far East. But France's political and news circles have tried to overshadow the economic and military aspects of Chirac's visit to the Persian Gulf, which they are trying to portray as being political in nature.

However, the truth is that despite the fact that France pursues political interests by intervening in the peace process between the Arabs and the Zionist regime, it is also trying to achieve its economic objectives by intervening in the political transactions in the Persian Gulf.

Also, a new wave of competition has begun for the signing of agreements for arms sales to the Persian Gulf countries. France, Britain, and America are the major rivals in this process. And this should be viewed within the context that France's new policy, which is based on reducing the country's military expenditures and building an army of veterans, is in great need of markets for France's second-hand military equipment.

Actually whenever [Western] countries want to empty their arsenals or to ensure that their weapons industries

operate well, they head for the Middle East and especially the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.

Therefore, it is not surprising that they try to create crises in the Persian Gulf and to ensure their military presence in the region by selling their arms to the region's Arab countries, hence the holding of joint military exercises between Western countries and the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf every so often — something that is aimed at increasing military cooperation between these countries.

Despite the fact that London and Washington have signed agreements for extensive arms sales to the Middle Eastern countries, according to a U.S. Congress report, France ranked first among the countries selling arms to the Middle East with its \$11.4 billion of sales in 1994.

Meanwhile, on the basis of a report by the French industries' committee, orders placed with the French military industries in 1995 by Middle East and the Persian Gulf countries have increased to 75 percent from 55 percent [of France's total exports] in 1994.

According to this report, the military equipment to be delivered by France in 1995 will include Leclerc tanks to the United Arab Emirates and spare parts to Saudi Arabia, as well as the sale of a number of patrol boats to Kuwait.

At any rate, it should be pointed out that part of the changing face of French diplomacy is linked with France's efforts to expand its economic and military markets.

Iran: President Urges Further Expansion of Tehran-Pyongyang Ties

LD1707132796 Tehran IRNA in English
1311 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — Outgoing ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Choe Yong-no on Wednesday [17 July] met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to bid farewell to him.

Referring to Iran's achievements in economic and development fields, the outgoing DPRK ambassador said that the government and people of North Korea consider the success of the Islamic Republic of Iran as their own one.

The friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, have expanded significantly in all grounds, said the diplomat, who called for further promotion of mutual relations in the future.

President Rafsanjani, on his part, pointed to the common stance shared by Tehran and Pyongyang on many international issues, saying that there is still room for further broadening of cooperation between the two countries.

There should be more exchange of views and bilateral delegations so that the foundation is laid for stronger ties between the two nations, the president said.

Iran: Commentary Finds Foreign Policy 'Limping'
LD1507183996 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 11 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Is Our Foreign Policy Limping"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab world press is reporting these days that Egypt has turned down a proposal by the Iranian authorities to resume ties. A number of Arabic newspapers have also reported that an Egyptian official [Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa] has set some preconditions for the resumption of ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. These newspapers add that in the opinion of the Egyptian Government, Iran is a state that supports terrorism, interferes in the internal affairs of other countries, and threatens the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms; and unless Iran abandons its behavior, Cairo would not be prepared to resume its ties.

In the face of this poisonous and baseless propaganda, there is no-one to defend the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is no Iranian official to tell the Arab world public opinion that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which itself is a victim of terrorism, is striving to defend the honor and independence of the Muslim nations. They should be told that not only has Iran no desire to resume ties with Cairo, rather it considers the Egyptian regime to be a pawn of Zionism, a servant of the United States, and a traitor to the Egyptian people.

The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran should have announced the above facts. But unfortunately the officials of this ministry were so overwhelmed by Syria's mediation efforts that they behaved hastily and unskillfully. Now they have nothing else to say. On the one hand, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry is saying: Our policy toward Egypt has not changed and the more Egypt distances itself from Zionism, the closer it can come to the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, despite the fact that these days the Mubarak regime is showing greater affiliation to Zionism and even, at the behest of the Zionists, accuses the Islamic Republic of Iran of supporting terrorism, our country's Foreign Ministry regards such a regime worthy of rapprochement.

Frankly, what is going on? Where are the Foreign Ministry's sources of information? How did it acquire these superficial and unskilled analyses? Are we ultimately going to find some answers to these questions? Why is our foreign policy limping in dealing with the most important issues of the Islamic world?

Iran: Khorasan Wraps Up Week's Events in Iran

NC1807084096 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian
4 Jul 96 pp 1, 15

["Weekly Analysis" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] The presence of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran in northern Khorasan and the inauguration of several large economic projects in the region, the aggression by Turkish military helicopters against our country's border areas, the visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Tehran, and the holding of an international seminar on Afghanistan in Tehran were among the most important events at home during the past week.

Among the developments on the foreign scene during the same period, we can refer to the coming to power of a coalition government in Turkey formed of the Islamic Welfare Party and the Right Path Party, as well as the conclusion of the G-7 summit in Lyon, France.

The Negative Impact of Turkey's Aggression Against Iranian Borders

The aggression by Turkish military helicopters against Iran's border areas and their raids on border residents in the Islamic Republic of Iran during which six Iranian civilians were killed, sparked off extensive opposition by the public and among the country's political and news circles.

This attack took place after the extensive and pre-planned assault by the Turkish army on northern Iraq on the pretext of crushing the Kurds opposing Ankara. Obviously Ankara's servicemen were capable of telling the difference between Iranian village residents and the armed PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] group which is based in northern Iraq! Nevertheless, there have always been political circles that have believed and still believe that they rule over political-military incidents and want to harm relations between the two countries. This week, the political efforts by Turkey and Iran concentrated on how to mitigate the negative impact of these incidents on the level and type of relations between the two countries. The difference is that Turkey's political officials completely deny that this aggression took place, while the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly protest against the aggression.

and the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran summoned Ankara's ambassador in Tehran to the Foreign Ministry to tender an official protest to him. The outcome of all these efforts was that a special committee was formed to closely examine this incident.

Faruq al-Shar's Visit to Tehran and Tripartite Messages!

According to political analysts, the visit to Tehran by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' under the current conditions, turns back to many issues on the scene of regional incidents. One is that this visit took place at the end of the Arab summit in Cairo, and undoubtedly Faruq al-Shar' is carrying specific messages on the outcome of this conference. The second is the joint concern felt by Iran and Syria over Turkey's military pact with the Zionist regime. And the third is Syria's interest in easing the tension between Iran and some Arab countries such as Bahrain and Egypt.

Obviously, Damascus is exerting special efforts toward a rapprochement between Arab countries and Tehran. And in connection with this, Damascus's efforts to consolidate political relations between Tehran and Cairo are noteworthy. Meanwhile, as an Arab side and a friend, Damascus can be effective in the mediation between Tehran and Manama, especially when some foreign circles, such as America and the Zionist regime, are extremely interested in creating tension in relations between Tehran and the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf.

The International Seminar on Afghanistan and Regional Security

The international seminar on Afghanistan and regional security was held in Tehran at a time when last week a similar conference was convened in Washington by America. America's political efforts in Afghan affairs increased when Iran's peace efforts in Afghanistan led to a series of important political agreements among the current groups and to the isolation of war-mongering groups such as the Taleban. This undoubtedly was not favorably welcomed by Washington, especially when most of the creditable Afghan groups regarded America's so-called political-economic mediation efforts with growing doubts. The international seminar on Afghanistan in Tehran once again provided the opportunity to assess the outcome of peace-seeking efforts.

In his opening speech at the conference, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran stressed that security in Afghanistan will have a direct impact on security in neighboring countries and said: The most major issue which ties Afghanistan's fate with the fate

of its neighbors is security, which constitutes the main pivot of this seminar.

Thirty Measures by the G-7 To Confront Organized Crime!

The G-7 summit, which was also attended by the Russian prime minister, ended its works in Lyon, France at a time when it had been strongly affected by the explosion at the American servicemen's headquarters in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, despite America's extensive efforts to exploit this crisis to distract the heads of the other industrial countries from their specific stands, these countries decisively disagreed with America's unilateral approach to the world economy and free trade. America put forward this approach on the pretext of harnessing terrorism, so much so that the French president overtly stressed that any effort to boycott European companies dealing with Iran will result in Europe's immediate reaction. Nevertheless, in order to satisfy America, the industrial countries of the world altered the name of a pre-compiled plan on fighting organized crime to the plan on fighting terrorism. This plan consists of 30 measures and steps on how to confront organized crime and terrorism and was compiled by experts at America's initiative after last year's G-7 summit in Halifax, Canada.

Iran: Ayatollah Brands Opponents of 'Velayat' as Apostates

LD1607134496 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed Report: "Ayatollah Khaz'ali: Those Who Consciously Say the Rule of the Velayat is Dictatorial are Apostates"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Religious government ensures people's happiness in this world and in the next, and it is the best conceivable government for humanity.

Speaking at a mourning ceremony last night [9 July] held by the Islamic Coalition Association to mark the last 10 days of Safar [month on the Islamic lunar calendar during which the anniversary of the Prophet's death occurs], His Eminence Ayatollah 'Abolqasem Khaz'ali, a clerical member of the Guardian Council, made the above statement and discussed "Islamic jurisprudence and the role of the Assembly of Experts in Islamic government."

He said that the Assembly of Experts plays the most important role in Islamic government, and he stated: The greatest right God has placed among people is the right the ruler [vali] has over the people and the right the people have over the ruler, and, in the system of the Islamic Republic, the [Assembly of] Experts is an

institution that designates the regent [janeshin] in the absence of the lord of the age, may God hasten his noble advent [reference to the hidden imam].

Ayatollah Khaz'ali referred to articles 5 and 109 of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the leader and the velayat [guardianship] and said: The leader must be a qualified jurisconsult, who is just and who has social and political insight, so that he can lead the Islamic ummah [community] in a deceptive and deceiving world.

He added: In today's world, where the United States and Israel resort to a range of ploys and tricks to gain mastery over Muslims, an Islamic leader must be aware of the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and foil them with wisdom. The member of the Guardian Council noted: In Islam, the right to rule over the people belongs to God, the prophet and the immaculate imams [the 12 Shiite imams], and, during the absence of the immaculate one [12th imam], a qualified jurisconsult obtains the right to rule as a regent for the hidden imam, may God hasten his noble advent.

He said that, in his leadership of the Islamic revolution, the late imam [Khomeyni] enjoyed the approval of the lord of the age and, today too, the eminent leader [Khamene'i] enjoys the approval of the lord of the age. He stated: The conspiracies of the enemies of Islam against the Islamic republic are doomed to failure. He noted: The lord of the age, may God hasten his noble advent, will support the Islamic revolution and the system of the Islamic republic.

He said: Anyone, who says that the government of velayat is dictatorial is an apostate, if they say it knowingly. Ayatollah Khaz'ali referred to the late imam's high degree of insight regarding political matters and said: The eminent Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, possessed a high degree of political and social insight, and he led the Islamic revolution to victory in such a way that the world's prominent politicians were amazed.

He said: At the time when the bill on provincial and local societies was being approved in the forties [corresponding to the 1960s on the Christian calendar], the eminent imam put such pressure on the government that the government of Alam [the then prime minister] was forced to withdraw the bill.

He added: In the course of the Islamic revolution, too, when some people were saying to the eminent imam that he should moderate his demands in the face of the taghut regime [reference to an idol in the Koran; term used to describe the shah's regime] so that people would not be killed, the eminent Imam, modelling himself on

His Holiness Imam Husayn, peace be upon him, insisted on the continuation of the uprising until the Islamic revolution was victorious.

Ayatollah Khaz'ali said that, today, the eminent leader, with vast political and social insight — like the late imam — stood up to the many conspiracies of the enemies of Islam, and he stated: When the eminent leader felt that the use of daggers [during Shiite mourning ceremonies] was being exploited against Islam and that this activity was being used to undermine Islam, he bravely spoke of the dangers posed by it [reference to Khamene'i saying that people should not use daggers to injure themselves during mourning ceremonies].

He said: During the elections for the fifth term of the Majles, the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution — when he sensed a threat from liberals — made the people aware of the threat. The clerical member of the Guardian Council also referred to Article 107 of the Constitution about the responsibility of the Assembly of Experts and said: The [Assembly of] Experts has a grave responsibility in the system of the Islamic republic, whereby it must select qualified jurisconsults, like the late imam and the eminent leader, from among jurisconsults and decide who is best for leading the Islamic ummah.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khaz'ali referred to the grounds for the enemy's cultural and ideological onslaught, and, criticizing the inadequate use of the hejab [Islamic covering] by some women in society, he said: I am not happy about the way some women wear the hejab. People who engage in propagating virtue and prohibiting vice must advise women who wear the hejab badly, and, if it is the case that some people want to spread the bad use of the hejab with hostile intentions, they must be confronted.

He also spoke, in his remarks, about the meaning of religious jurisprudence and said: Islamic jurisprudence is the recognition of the rights of the people one deals with.

Iran: Daily Reports Majles Appointments

LD1607144796 Tehran HAMSHAHERI in Persian
11 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Members of the Majles Interparliamentary Group's Executive Council Elected"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political Desk — At their first session [in the current term of the Majles], the General Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran's interparliamentary group elected the 15 members of the executive council of the interparliamentary group.

According to the public relations office of the Majles, the members of the group are the following: Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, Fa'ezeh Hashemi, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Musa Zargar, Mahmud Astaneh, Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi, Elias Hazrati, Hasan Ghaffuri-Fard, Seyyed Mohsen Yahyavi, 'Ali Qanbari, Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabestari, Qorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi, Soheyla Jelow-darzadeh, Mohammad Mehdi Rahbari-Amlashi, and Qasem Ramazanpur-Nargesi.

According to the same report, the executive council chose seven of its members as the group's presidium, as follows: Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabestari as chairman, Qorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi as first deputy chairman, Seyyed Mohsen Yahyavi as second deputy chairman, Musa Zargar as secretary general, Ahmad Nateq-Nuri as treasurer, Hasan Ghaffuri-Fard as the first secretary, and Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi as the second secretary.

These members will be in charge of the Islamic Republic of Iran's interparliamentary group for a two year period. [passage omitted]

According to the report, the members of the presidiums of the State Audit Office and Financial Affairs Committee, and of Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution Committee were also named.

Iraj Sefati-Dezfuli was selected as the chairman of the State Audit Office and Financial Affairs Committee. The other members of the presidium of this committee are Hamid Reza Haji-Baba'i and Seyyed Haseyn Sharifi, first and second deputy chairmen; Mohammad Nobovvati, rapporteur; and Asghar Ra'isi-Dehkardi and Hoseyn Asgari, first and second secretaries respectively.

The members of Articles 88 and 90 of the Constitution Committee were also elected as follows: Hashem Hashemzadeh-Harisi, chairman; Ali Mo'alemi and Seyyed Mohammad Movahhedi, first and second deputy chairmen; Seyyed Abu-Fazel Razavi-Ardakani, rapporteur; and Ebrahim Karimi and Seyyed Mojtaba Musavi-Ojaq, first and second deputy chairmen [as published].

Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Ahmad Ramazanpur-Nargesi, Mohammad Naser Tavassolizadeh, Mohammad Reza Majidi, Rajab Rahmani, Gholam Heydar Ebrahimbay-Salami were also elected yesterday as the presidium of the Financial and Employment Affairs Committee of the Majles.

Iran: Ansar-e Hezbollah Demand Islamization of Universities

LD1707192096 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Jul 96 p 3

[News Report: "Ansar-e Hezbollah Emphasize the Need for Islamization of Universities and Recruitment of Committed Teachers"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the fourth anniversary of the eminent leader's speech on the Islamization of universities, Ansar-e Hezbollah [supporters of Hezbollah] of Tehran yesterday held a rally and gathered outside Tehran University's central building. They called for the implementation of the eminent leader's instructions in this respect. [passage omitted]

According to a report by our correspondent, a number of clergymen, students, self-sacrificing devotees [Iraq-Iran war handicapped], families of martyrs, and basij sisters took part in the rally. Those taking part in the rally chanted slogans including: Islamic values should be revived, Islamic universities should be set up, lecturers affiliated [with opposition or foreign groups] should be ousted from their posts, and incompetent managers should be expelled. They also called for the implementation of the eminent leader's guidelines on the Islamization of universities.

A number of basij students and clergymen spoke during the rally emphasizing the need for the implementation of the principle of propagation of virtue and prohibition of vice in the society and at universities. They also called for confrontation against cultural negligence and ignorance and the strengthening of Islamic values at universities.

During the course of the rally, marchers also gathered outside Azad University's central building strongly criticizing the management of the university and called for a fundamental change in the structure of Azad University.

Following the conclusion of the rally, the student members of Ansar-e Hezbollah gathered outside Tehran University's central building and chanted slogans including: We are waging a fresh war against the cultural onslaught; liberal lecturers who propagate indecency should be expelled; we want religiously-committed lecturers and universities. [passage omitted] In a statement issued at the end of the rally, marchers called for reforming universities, protecting Islamic values, paying attention to the selection of lecturers and students, shunning cowardly elements, avoiding nepotism, eliminating bureaucracy, and pursuing the policy of the Islamization of universities through the implementation of short and long term plans at universities and scientific centers.

Iran: Industry, Research, Development Viewed*96LH0205A Tehran IRAN in Persian 2 Apr 96 p 5*

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps when Naser ol-Din Shah, unwittingly and for his own amusement, authorized one of his merchants to import equipment for the first cloth-weaving factory, he never suspected that this patch that would be stitched onto the body of Iran's economy would be forever eclipsed by the traditional system of trade, and for this reason would always remain incongruous.

This is because when Naser ol-Din Shah and the others who came after him looked at industry, they always unwittingly ignored one thing: knowledge and scientific research.

In the past, the equipment that was mistakenly called technology changed a small part of this land's economy to make it different from the nation's dominant and trade structure. However, to keep this equipment operating, which was updated after several years, we had to make heavy expenditures. Despite this, these heavily expenditures were borne willingly. Even the program to become industrial was thought to mean importing as much of this equipment as possible.

This incorrect view laid the cornerstone for this nation's economy in a spot where it has remained until today: the practice of importing equipment to transfer technology. Now however, when we are standing a long distance away from that time and we also have much more extensive sources of information, the question arises as to where lies the true origin of this historic mistake. Despite the tens of billions of dollars invested, we are still very far away from having native standards and characteristics for the new technology. Of course there has been much debate and discussion about this gap. Some think our primary problem is the shortage of investment, some think it is the growth in the traditional system of trade, some have considered the world's negative political changes to be the primary obstacle to the growth of industry in Iran, while others have sought other reasons.

All of the reasons presented are important, but all have ignored one point: industry and technology are the outcome of knowledge and research. Industry without knowledge is like a seedling in salty ground. This tree will not be fruitful, nor will that industry bring about change, prosperity and progress, yet this has been our way of thinking from the very beginning, as we have sought to cultivate industry without knowledge and research.

While the world is approaching the 21st century with unprecedented speed, it is not yet clear what the

indicator of superiority will be for the countries who will the first rays of sunlight on the first day of the twenty-first century. Will raw materials, especially energy, still be seen as strategic goods? Will the ability to manufacture tanks that can withstand RPG rounds be considered the mark of superiority? Will the nations that have electronic or semiconductor technology consider themselves the best in the world, or ...

It is difficult to answer these questions at a time when we still have a short period of time before we will see the first rays of the dawn of the 21st century shining on the wide roof of the world. One principle is clear, however. In the next decade technology will reach astonishing levels and along with these indescribable changes, many commercial, economic and political concepts will undergo continuous revolutionary change in the world.

Despite this, the ones who will be able to understand these changing and evolving concepts will be the ones who are living in an evolving and developed society — a society that has made technology take root within it because it has within it knowledge and extensive research, and whose industry is the natural outcome of that society's scientific and research evolution.

In these circumstances the question is, to what extent are we separated from the characteristics of the world of the 21st century, and what thinking will we have done for the nation's technology by that time, which is not very far away? Will our industry continue to be a huge and worthless parasite living off the nation's huge and substantial trade and traditional economy? Will the great capitalists of that time still be the ones who continue adding to the volume and extent of their wealth by buying and stockpiling goods and probably because of illogical price increases? Will we be able to enter the next century under circumstances in which more than 70 percent of the nation's foreign exchange revenues are derived from the sale of oil, and when 60 percent of our non-oil revenues come solely from carpet and pistachio exports?

Such an outlook is certainly not what is wanted or planned by the nation's economic planners. The content and policies of the Second Five-Year Plan are testimony to this.

However, it must be noted that in the next half-decade, at least six to seven million persons will be added to the nation's population. In other words, in the next half-decade a population equal to the size of two large cities in Iran, Mashhad, and Esfahan, will be added to the nation's population, while it is predicted that an increase in the price of oil, which accounts for 75 percent of the nation's foreign exchange revenues, is

practically impossible. In these circumstances, to be able to engage in deep pursuit of economic development policies, where must we begin? Should we continue the policy of importing industrial equipment? Should all policies be directed toward non-oil exports, meaning raw materials, pistachios, and carpets? Even though this policy should be vigorously pursued, it will never be adequate.

Then what path will lead to growth and development in the true sense? The way is through comprehensive attention to research and researchers in the basic sciences and technology, and through changing the content of elementary, secondary, and university education.

Along with these programs, all the policies in the First and Second Five-Year Plans must be reappraised realistically. As a realistic strategy, the revision of procedures and programs at all levels of management must be vigorously pursued.

Only under these conditions will we be able to approach the end of the world's second vigorous millennium with hope for bright horizons.

Outlook for Iran's Industries at the End of the Second Millennium

Because of its weak scientific and research foundations, the nation's industry faces many problems and difficulties. Along with this, in certain areas we have not yet properly evaluated the main roots of the problems and weak performance in the nation's industry. A number of managers still say that inadequate investment is the primary obstacle to the nation's industrial development, yet the only appropriate foundation for technology is active research and educational communities. Engineer Mojtaba Tahmurs, executive director of the Advanced Industrial Systems Company, affiliated with the Sharif Industrial University, says: To preserve and perpetuate economic development and political independence, we must have developed industry.

The development of technology will greatly increase the nation's ability to create and develop industry. Basically, the transfer of technology needs special capabilities. For this reason, policies to transfer technology must replace the policy of importing industrial machinery.

Imported machinery brings with it many complexities. If one small part of this machinery is ruined, the entire assembly is unusable until complete repairs are made, while repairing that part will also be very expensive.

Sometimes, we are even obliged to import a foreign specialist from the country that sent the machinery to repair the damaged part and get the existing device

working again. Yet research plays a determinative role in the transfer of technology. Organized and goal-oriented research lays the groundwork so that technical knowledge can develop in the country. This knowledge will help us to create and completely develop industry. I believe that research is an inseparable part of technology and industrial evolution. Of course it must be realized that research entails costs. All countries that have attained industrial development have allocated very good budgets to the research sector, and have also done careful planning for this sector. The approach to research must be very different from that in other areas.

He added: Of course during the last two years the nation's research budgets have had striking growth. Despite this, it is necessary that those working on the inside allocate the biggest part of this budget to industry and scrupulously avoid the various temptations that contaminate the principle of the work or the research itself.

In my view our country does not have the necessary experience to spend research budgets. Thus temptations must be put aside and the method for spending research budgets must be tested. In reality, along with appropriate research budgets, we are also in need of strong systems and organization in research tasks, but this organization does not come about overnight. The desired policies in the program must be implemented, and after implementation the results obtained must be evaluated. In view of the results obtained, policies must be revised and bottlenecks must be overcome.

Of course all of the nation's high-ranking officials have understood precisely the importance and the role of research. The establishment of this center is a small manifestation of the positive view the insiders have of research and research institutions.

Research Academy for Advanced Industrial Systems Finds Its Way

The Academy for Advanced Industrial Systems, established in the year 1371 [21 March 1992 - 20 March 1993], has played a great role in connecting the university to industry and also in solving the problems with some of the malfunctions in the nation's industries.

In this regard, Engineer Mojtaba Tahmurs said: This research academy came about in 1371 with joint investment by the Industrial Development and New Construction Organization and the Sharif College of Industry. In my belief, one of the levers that brings about development in scientific and research activities is direct relationship between industry and the university. Of course our country's experience shows that the ties between

the university and industry have not been that successful. Thus, this academy has set out with vigor to achieve this goal.

This is especially true since at the nation's universities there is great potential for research and investigation, and this potential can easily be given to industry. Of course some of the nation's important industries began this activity in 1371, and with the allocation of an appropriate budget they have tried to establish this center. It is active in the building of automation, with the belief that the specialist capabilities of our universities can be used to help the nation's factories by solving problems, but in an organized framework and form. In any case, the Academy of Advanced Industrial Systems is creating this organization.

Iran: Railroad Transportation Lines Detailed

96LH0204A Tehran IRAN in Persian 14 Apr 96 p 10

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran, with an area of 1,648,195 sq km and a population of more than 60 million, is located in Southwest Asia and in the Middle East. It extends from the Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan, Armenia, and the Republic of Azerbaijan to the north to the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, and the open seas to the south. In the west it borders with Turkey and Iraq, and on the East with Pakistan and Afghanistan.

For a long time, in view of its strategic position, Iran has had special importance internationally. Through the long centuries, it has been the world's passageway for caravans of goods from east to west. The existence of famous connective arteries such as the silk road and the roads to India which went through old Iran are testimony to this.

In the current era, with the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the emergence of new countries with common interests to the north of Iran and the demands of these countries for a variety of export and import routes and release from dependence on the Republic of Russia, this role is back in its glory. Because of various important factors such as high security, its economical qualities and the short time required to go from place to place, it is reclaiming its special position.

Since shipping and communications, as key elements and first needs, are considered prerequisites to beginning any economic development, high-ranking officials in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have given special attention to developing transportation, shipping and communications, especially through the railroad.

The results of this concern and effort include the construction of the Fariman (Mashhad) - Sarakhs railroad,

for the purpose of opening a new intercontinental rail route and connecting the Asian and European networks, along with the creation of the Bandar-e Amirabad railroad on the shore of the Caspian Sea, which is the first important port with the ability to connect to the railroad. Along with this came the beginning of the construction of the Kerman - Zahedan railroad, which, along with the Zahedan - Mirjaveh (Taftan) and Koviteh (Pakistan) railroad, connects to the railroad networks in Asia, Europe, and the Middle East.

In view of the appropriate extent of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its connection to the railroad networks in the Middle East and Europe via the Turkish railroad, to which it joins at the Razi and Kapikuy border points, and also its connection via the railroad of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which it joins at the Jalfa border point, to the network of railroads in the Caucasus and those beyond the Caucasus in the newly independent republics, and finally its connection to the Russian railroad, at the Sarakhs border via the Turkmenistan railroad to the railroads in Central Asia, and at the Mirjaveh (Taftan) border to the Pakistan railroad, we conclude that this provides the possibility for valuable development with the proper utilization of the infrastructure and other existing resources such as ports, maritime container terminals, free trade and transit zones and the ability to ship goods through the aforementioned border points to Europe, Northern Europe, the Central Asian republics, the Far East, and the countries to the south of the Persian Gulf.

Economics Group

What follows is a brief summary to introduce the Islamic Republic of Iran's rail transit corridors, which consist either of firm connections or a composite of shipping methods.

Firm Railroad Transit Routes

Razi-Sarakhs-Razi line. Route: Razi, Tabriz, Zanjan, Tehran, Shahrud, Fariman (Mashhad), Sarakhs and the reverse, with a length of 2,013 km and a freight capacity of 2 million tons per year.

Rail and Sea Transit Routes

Bandar 'Abbas-Sarakhs-Bandar 'Abbas line. Route: Bandar 'Abbas, Sirjan, Bafq, Yazd, Qom, Tehran, Shahrud, Fariman (Mashhad), Sarakhs and the reverse, with a line length of 2,540 km and a freight capacity of 2 million tons per year.

Bandar-e Emam-Sarakhs-Bandar-e Emam line. Route: Bandar-e Emam, Ahvaz, Tehran, Shahrud, Fariman (Mashhad), Sarakhs and the reverse, with a line length

of 1,980 km and an annual freight capacity of 2 million tons.

Bandar 'Abbas, Northern Ports (Torkman, Amirabad), Bandar 'Abbas. Route: Bandar 'Abbas, Sirjan, Bafq, Yazd, Tehran, Garmsar, Qa'emshahr, Bandar-e Amirabad and/or Torkman and the reverse, with line lengths of 1,878 km and 1,947 km and an annual freight capacity of 1 million tons.

Bandar-e Emam Khomeyni, Northern Ports (Amirabad, Torkman), Bandar-e Emam Khomeyni. Route: Bandar-e Emam, Ahvaz, Qom, Tehran, Tabriz, Jalfa and the reverse, with a length of 1,811 km and a freight capacity of 2 million tons per year.

Razi-Northern Ports (Amirabad-Torkman)-Razi Line. Route: Razi, Tabriz, Tehran, Garmsar, Qa'emshahr, Bandar-e Amirabad or Torkman and the reverse, with line lengths of 1,352 km and 1,412 km and an annual freight capacity of 1 million tons.

Jalfa-Northern Ports (Amirabad, Torkman)-Jalfa Line. Route: Jalfa, Tabriz, Tehran, Garmsar, Qa'emshahr, Bandar-e Amirabad or Torkman and the reverse, with line lengths of 1,276 km and 1,345 km, and an annual freight capacity of 1 million tons.

Sea, Rail, Road, Rail Transit Routes

Bandar 'Abbas-Lotfabad-Bandar 'Abbas Line. Route: Bandar 'Abbas, Bafq, Tehran, Mashhad, Lotfabad and the reverse, with a line length of 2,665 km and a freight capacity of 3 million tons per year.

Bandar-e Emam-Lotfabad-Bandar-e Abad Line. Route: Bandar-e Emam, Ahvaz, Tehran, Mashhad, Lotfabad and the reverse, with a line length of 2,104 km and an annual freight capacity of 2 million tons.

Northern Ports (Bandar-e Amirabad, Bandar-e Torkman)-Kerman-Zahed (Mirjaveh) Line. Route: Northern Ports (Amirabad, Torkman), Tehran, Yazd, Kerman, Zahedan, Mirjaveh and the reverse, with line lengths of 2,088 km and 2,157 km, and a freight capacity of 2 million tons.

Rail, Road, Rail Transit Routes

Jalfa-Kerman-Zahedan (Mirjaveh) Line. Route: Jalfa, Tabriz, Tehran, Yazd, Bafq, Kerman, Zahedan (Mirjaveh) and the reverse, with a line length of 2,580 km and an annual freight capacity of 3 million tons.

Razi-Kerman-Zahedan (Mirjaveh) Line. Route: Razi, Tabriz, Tehran, Yazd, Bafq, Kerman, Zahedan (Mirjaveh) and the reverse, with a line length of 2,656 km and an annual freight capacity of 3 million tons per year.

Lotfabad-Kerman-Zahedan (Mirjaveh) Line. Route: Lotfabad, Mashhad, Tehran, Yazd, Kerman, Zahedan (Mirjaveh) and the reverse, with a line length of 2,872 km and an annual freight capacity of 1.5 million tons.

Sarakhs-Kerman-Zahedan (Mirjaveh) Line. Route: Sarakhs, Fariman, Tehran, Yazd, Kerman, Zahedan (Mirjaveh) and the reverse, with a line length of 2,749 km and an annual freight capacity of 1.5 million tons per year.

In view of the capabilities of the aforementioned routes, one can understand well that the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the necessary extent, are a connective bridge between East and West and North and South. Keeping in mind the high-volume transit freight capabilities and the high security offered by the railroads, they will act as a strong lever and a connective bridge in general between the nations of Central Asia, the Black Sea, the Caucasus Basin and Europe, and specifically between the nations of the Southern Persian Gulf littoral, the Middle East, and the Far East.

Iran: Tehran Researchers Reportedly 'Link Up' With Internet

NC1607192496 *Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian*
8 Jul 96 p 13

[Unattributed commentary: "The Internet—the First Station in Global Communications"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the last decades of the present century, numerous phenomena have appeared in various scientific fields.

One of these worth mentioning is the extensive information blitz, which allows a huge increase in the volume of information swiftly available, to which access by traditional methods seems farfetched and almost impossible.

Terminology such as the information explosion and slogans such as the Information Highway are evidence of the above. [passage omitted]

Our country has also jumped on the bandwagon and the Iran Internet network is presently covering a number of universities and research centers. Researchers and investigators can link up with universities and all the scientific centers of the world in this manner and benefit from their cooperation and information.

It is hoped that this important means will effectively compensate for the shortages in the field of obtaining scientific information, including books and publications, which earlier required foreign [currency] exchange and

access to conferences. Research and scientific investigation faced numerous difficulties, including foreign visits, and now the Internet can assist us in this momentous venture.

On the other hand, contrary to the communications satellites that have invaded various countries today, Internet is a two-way street, and just as other countries can enter the information they wish to in this network, we can also punch in the information on controversies regarding which the researchers of the world are seeking information.

The importance of this multiplies manifold in view of the fact that most of the information used by impartial researchers about our country was prepared by imperialist countries, and we can mention the IRANICA (network) in this regard. Before our cultural activities are entered into the Internet by others, our thinkers should close the paths of imperialist infiltration and think about preparing our own necessary material.

So far there has been much controversy regarding the merits and flaws of the Internet, which should be used only after defining needs and intensive and calculated planning for its required utilization, so that in the future we do not witness any instances of the misuse of this valuable medium.

Iran: Daily Press Reporting Criticized as 'Dead and Routine'

96LA0213A Tehran IRAN in Persian 30 Apr 96 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] If in a short and general study we wish to extract the realities concerning the nation's press, we must state honestly that in the year 1374 [21 March 1995 - 20 March 1996] it was nothing more than it was in the year 1373 [21 March 1994 - 20 March 1995].

Although one or two newspapers have begun to make efforts to break the dead and routine atmosphere that prevails over the press, and it appears that in some cases they have had successes, we still see that in general, press activity tends to be placid, or to put it in a better way, silent.

Why has this atmosphere come to prevail over the press, and why have there been no important successes from some of the efforts that have been made to emerge from it? Perhaps the answer has its roots in the reality that we have not yet wanted to accept that there have been vast changes in the world of communications, especially in the mass media, and the role of each media today is nothing like the role it has played in the last five or even ten years, nor are we years away from these changes.

There is no doubt that the atmosphere of these changes, which we must try not to miss out of obstinacy and indifference, is quite interesting and appealing, especially for the newspapers. This atmosphere completely disrupts our previous ideas about the work of the press, and it makes it easier to change the type of communications with readers. Although this atmosphere came in through invasion and had the character of compulsion and imposition, and under such circumstances it had to also find its way into our press community, the major reason for the frustration can be found in the conditions of our press today, which continues its life with known and concealed assistance. These are conditions in which revenues, income and expenditures do not influence our press the way they do the life of the press in other societies.

There is no doubt that if our press relied on sales of individual copies or advertising for its revenues, and if it had no choice but to attract a large number of readers, it would unwittingly go into a new valley and would not choose a path by which it would continue its life. Otherwise, they would have to submit to compulsory closure.

However what is the nature of this valley, which we have not entered, and why is it essential that we at least accept it? The reason is that in today's circumstances part of the low circulation of the press may have to do with the failure to accept it.

It must be honestly acknowledged that the people do not wish to read again news that they have heard again and again on radio and television, in the same form and the same shape without change. The pointless insistence by our press on continuing this will bring many frustrations, and a solution must be found. Of course others have found the solution and have been working on it for years. We must adapt to it and work with it in accordance with the conditions and characteristics of our society.

The solution is to give attention to the part of the news in society which television and radio have neither the opportunity nor the interest in handling and for which they have left the field completely empty.

Today it is very essential for the newspapers to understand this field, and this may be one of the most important duties of the press executive editors and editors, and along with them, the people who study mass communications.

In any case, what can be seen in the year 1374 from the form and content of our press, and especially the newspapers, is that without any desire to change course and accept the new conditions, as in the past the biggest

worry on their minds was to continue printing the news, and that was through the official channels, public relations offices, and IRNA.

Testimony to this claim is all of the newspapers, both the group that has lines of dependence and the group that calls itself public, claims that it is published for all of the people and does not insist on any particular point of view.

Studies show that the news reports in the newspapers closely resemble one another. I saw this characteristic clearly myself in a week of studying all of the newspapers in the year 1374. Even if I myself were not an insider, I would certainly be inclined to think that our newspapers suffer from severe censorship and that the news they print is imposed and made-to-order.

This same study showed that one or two newspapers have tried to get out of this atmosphere and they have truly tried, but in practice they achieved no particular distinction and have fallen back into the same rut as the others.

I believe that conditions for our newspapers must change so that they will rely solely on the market and public reception. Their concern should always be that if they are to find a place in the market, as is the case for other goods, they must change direction or get out of the game.

Under those circumstances the prices will be realistic, subsidies will not be provided as a factor in survival, and what will remain will be professional work and effort by every press unit. If the units can adapt themselves to the conditions of the work, they will remain in place, otherwise they will disappear.

Under these circumstances the single copy sales price, which today is an important factor in the lives of the newspapers, or to put it more correctly, is not accounted in the lives of most of them, will find value and along with this, circulation will determine advertising prices. Of course this will be true circulation, not false circulation, because high sales for a newspaper at very low prices cannot justify a public welcome for that newspaper.

In view of what has been said, even in today's conditions if some of the press plan and step outside the existing closed cycle, they will certainly find more readers.

Stepping outside the closed cycle requires that in these imposed conditions for progress we accept another role for the media and that we give attention to important news in society from other points of view. For example, when one of the nation's high officials speaks

about some subject, the way it is reflected again after being broadcast repeatedly over radio and television only shows a kind of naivete, and, in a word, the idea of "filling" the newspaper, but if the newspapers immediately study the issues in a speech, put their finger on it, and present expert views on that subject, the findings will certainly be appealing and be given attention, and the reader will at least find something new to read.

Likewise, with regard to various events, social issues and other things, what remains to be done is this same fresh and new look, for which as it happens, conditions are ripe.

Perhaps if meetings were held in our press units to discuss the prevailing atmosphere, the atmosphere that should prevail and to give attention to a fresh look, and if the issue were raised of the necessity to increase circulation as an indicator and a characteristic for the newspapers, we would be able to get through the year 1375 [21 March 1996 - 20 March 1997] with new characteristics and bring an end to the atmosphere that indicates press indifference to many realities, events and issues. Then we would have newspapers that are completely different from one another because they are looking at issues from a fresh perspective. In this variety, many opportunities will grow that will certainly bring about progress and elevation in the work of our press.

It is worth mentioning that my view in this article has been general. Attention has not been given to many of the details that would be required in a research and investigative effort. The reason was that I had a brief opportunity to do the writing. What you are reading is the result of several hours of work in the newspaper environment in the midst of a mass of other responsibilities I have.

For this reason, no mention has been made of the efforts by some of the press to get outside of the closed cycle. I should mention that certain examples of these efforts are quite outstanding. They may be the first steps taken to enter into an atmosphere in which attention is given to taking a fresh look. If I were to change the generalities to specifics and name specific newspapers, perhaps I could have reached a better conclusion. Of course I would have had to write more than one or two articles.

God willing, perhaps I will have another opportunity to do this, but my colleagues will definitely accept my request that they enter into this discussion as a very effective step in the life of our press, because they will find their place and they will obtain a golden opportunity to add to the readership of the press, which is now quite low compared to that of other neighboring countries.

There may be a group that believes that low circulation has its roots in other matters and that I have ignored that, but I must note that the subject I have discussed is one of the reasons for the low press circulation in our country. Until attention is given to this factor, it will not be possible to deal with other issues. In truth, it is the first step on the ladder.

Iran: KEYHAN Daily Attacked for Position on Elections

96LH0207A Tehran KAR VA KARGAR in Persian
16 Apr 96 pp 2, 5

[FBIS Translated Text] In its 27 Farvardin [16 April] issue, the newspaper KEYHAN once again repeated its former practice of using unethical and inhumane terminology and leveling accusations at others, and unfortunately it continued its "improper procedure" in discussing its subject.

What a shame, 100 shames, that this nation's cultural atmosphere should have to tolerate such carrying on, using Public Treasury paper and money!

As we have also said in the past, we are not talking about the toiling workers and respected writers of that newspaper. We emphasize that we are talking about only a small number of those on its editorial staff.

As for what we have to say to our dear brothers at the respected KEYHAN newspaper:

1. During the last two days in their contacts with us, our press friends on the other newspapers have emphasized that this is the way KEYHAN operates! Abusive and rude language is the norm for this newspaper! They have confirmed our previous statement that "if you took the abuse and rudeness out of KEYHAN, there would be nothing left."

Of course we have reached this conclusion with certainty, but today also in your answer, which was a total of 36 newspaper lines, you used unethical words 11 times, terms such as "abuse" and "idle talk," which truly are not proper adornments for the press in Islamic society.

2. It is surprising that every time you say you detest discussing a subject, you discuss it anyway. In the elections, you supported a specific political faction and you did it in the worst way, based on the destruction of others. You insisted on this support. We asked you why you did not openly declare it. You answered that the newspaper KAR VA KARGAR was upset with KEYHAN for opposing capitalism! Yes! Friends! We, society, and all the political and press circles were surprised. We were surprised by this view that, first of all, you are afraid of announcing your clear position

of dependence on the capitalist faction, and second that instead of explaining your coalition with the capitalists, you accuse others. Truly, why do you not discuss your coalition with the capitalists, to enlighten public opinion?

3. In one article we noted that the elections broke down many boundaries and broke open the limitations of many political groups. In reality, you are an example of this "breaking of the mold." In these elections you changed your orientation and leaned toward a specific group. In an article you printed in KEYHAN on 12/12/1374 [2 March 1996] titled "Wrong Address," this very breakdown can be seen. In that article the author attacked modern capitalists, whom he believes "not only have no sweat on their brow, but are the most stylishly dressed individuals in society and have access to the best and most modern saunas." He says the traditional capitalists "whose habitual path is from office to Turkish bath to mosque," are on the verge of death.

In this way KEYHAN's editorial writer ignores many realities, and in a way is trying to support the traditional capitalist faction.

If our respected readers refer back to those "notes," clearly they will confirm what we are saying about the way during the days of the elections KEYHAN turned in a different direction toward the capitalist associations (to the point of dependence on them).

We workers were and will be opposed to both types of capitalists, the ones who sit in their offices and the ones who dress stylishly (our performance makes this judgment). Of course we are proud that we oppose capitalism and have no hesitation about declaring it. We believe that yesterday's office-bound capitalists and today's stylish capitalists are all of the same cloth. We believe that the new capitalists have merely changed the model of Mercedes they drive. If they are doing anything in today's society, it is the continuation of the same path whose framework was followed by the previous generation of capitalists. In reality, modern capitalism is the successor to traditional capitalism!

And you! Why are you trying to conceal the leanings you have had for months by playing with words and terminology? In these elections you clarified your boundaries and showed that you are completely dependent on the capitalist faction.

4. You have always acted (by your own admission) based on the principle of "whichever way the wind blows." Sometimes in the domain of culture, and then in the domain of the economy, you change directions with the wind. Of course we regret that before this we did not understand you well, but fortunately the elections

clarified everything. All the boundaries were specified, not just for us but for all the people.

And the last word:

In response to the above, KEYHAN will probably resort again to the use of unethical words and terminology against us. To avoid the realities, and because of its fear of declaring a clear position with regard to its dependence on the capitalist faction, following the methods of the past, it will try to justify these matters, but it is clear that it will not answer us!

Dear friends, let us say again that by God, there is a God, and a hereafter also exists. On Resurrection Day we will all have to answer for what we have done. We will have to answer for the way we used public assets to make accusations.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Islamabad To Stress India's Need To Sign CTBT

BK1807044296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] are due to resume in Geneva on the 29th of this month where Pakistan will underscore the need that India must sign the treaty. Diplomatic circles in Islamabad have said Pakistan, along with Russia, UK, China, and Egypt, will strongly support that all the five nuclear powers and other states, which are nearing to become nuclear power, should ratify the treaty before it enters into force.

Pakistan rejected apprehensions that it would be forced to ratify the treaty while India refuses to ratify. The text tabled at the Geneva talks accepts the approach favored by Pakistan and other three nuclear powers. The text implies that the treaty will not come into force unless India adheres to it.

Diplomatic circles also said that there are other countries and interested groups, which are not happy with the formula of enter into force. [sentence as heard] They say that even if the treaty is signed and ratified by most of the countries, it may not come into force as India declared not to sign it. Meanwhile, Indian leaders continue to refuse to sign the treaty and at one stage they threatened to veto one of its clauses. Pakistan will oppose any change or dilution of this clause.

Pakistan: Accord Signed With PRC for Cooperation in Aeronautics

BK1707155296 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and China signed an agreement in Bhurban today for bilateral cooperation in the aeronautical sector. The agreement came at the conclusion of the first round of talks between the aeronautical delegations from China and Pakistan. The Pakistan delegation was led by Joint Secretary, Aviation, Mr. Jawed Hasan Ali, while Mr. (Li Xue Li), deputy director general, led the Chinese delegation. The talks were held in an extremely cordial and brotherly atmosphere, which reflected the excellent relations between the two countries. A number of proposals were also examined to expand the present operations of PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] and Chinese airlines.

Pakistan: West Apprehensive of Increasing Muslim Population

96AS0029B Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 30 May 96 pp 25-26

[Article by Abidullah Qadri: "West Worried by Increasing Muslim Population"]

[FBIS Translated Text] People in the non-Muslim world of today, especially Jews, Hindus, and Christians, are worried about the limited increase in their populations and the steady increase in the Muslim population. The rate of increase in Muslim population all over the world has scared the United States, Western nations, and the "Jewish lobby" so much that not only the United States and Western nations but their economic agencies are also supporting limiting population growth in the Muslim world.

In 1991, US columnist Ben Wattenburg wrote in his book, **FIRST UNIVERSAL NATION**, that there are many reasons to assume that the influence of Muslims will increase in the future. The main reason for this is the significant increase in Muslim population. According to Wattenburg, the Muslim population in 1950 was 375 million. He forecast this number to rise to two billion during the first part of the 21st century.

At present, the situation is that Muslim nations lead in population growth. In industrialized nations, women on average give birth to 1.7 children. In the Russian block [as published], the average number of children born is 2.1 per woman. In non-Muslim backward nations this average is 4.5 children per woman. In Muslim nations the average birth rate is said to be six children per woman. [passage omitted]

Jews and Christians are worried not only about their decreasing birth rates but also are spending an unlimited amount of money through their monetary agencies to limit birth rates in the rest of the world, especially in Islamic countries. For example, the United States and its monetary agencies are implementing a powerful campaign in Egypt to teach the people about anti-pregnancy medicines and equipment. They are using electronic media and commercial advertising for this purpose. All efforts are being made to convince the public that a large family causes poverty, backwardness, with almost every kind of negative characteristic. There is nothing positive about it. The most malicious aspect of this propaganda campaign is the direct and indirect attacks being made against Islam.

The financial aid that Pakistan is receiving from abroad (the United States, Western nations, and their monetary agencies) for family planning called for using 400 mobile vans to be distributed to encourage use of birth control drugs and equipment in remote rural areas. Services of at least 2,000 field workers are being utilized in the initial phase. In a 1993 report published in the quarterly publication of Community Health Education, it was detailed that family planning field workers will take practical steps such as direct and indirect plays and advertisements in radios and television to spread birth control practices in the whole country. These were to convince the people to support the Jewish-Christian program by showing them the benefits of family planning and the "problems" caused by any increase in population. The family planning agency in Pakistan has been made responsible for providing resources for stopping pregnancies among 70 percent of rural and 100 percent of urban couples.

The International Association of Family Planning has been providing birth control drugs through its workers to every family in Tunis for several years. The New York based Population Council said in its 1993 report that it costs \$64 per woman to procure family planning drugs and supplies and the total cost for continual use is about \$267 per woman. It should be known that the Population Council of New York is established by industrialized nations from all over the world for population control and these governments provide financial aid to it regularly.

The unlimited expenses on providing anti-pregnancy pills to every household, huge amount spent on "trapping the preys" through attractive electronic media program broadcasted on television show that the mission of family planning programs is very dangerous, unwelcome, and offensive. Its propaganda, however, uses beautiful words and programs.

Portions of a secret report prepared for the conference to formulate long-range plans for the US army in 1991 were made public later. This report said that they estimated the US population will be less than Nigeria's population in 2025. Iran's population is expected to be equal to that of Japan. The population of Ethiopia will be twice as much as the population of France at that time. This report said that a different world will emerge when these population figures are realized. The position and role of the present industrialized nations (such as the United States, Great Britain, and France) will be equal to zero. According to the authors of this report, efforts must be made to "physically annihilate" populations of these regions by wars and factional politics or to limit populations by birth control (scientific annihilation).

In 1990, the American Enterprise Institute published an analysis prepared by its statistics expert, Jean Calude Shesniaz. This analysis said, "the present tendency of population growth is changing world geography totally and the outer circle of this can be clearly seen." According to Jean Calude, new powers will emerge and will cause unrest, agitation, and chaos. The present powers will not be able to confront these new powers because of their limited populations and will fall.

In February 1984, the CIA had done a secret analysis of the Middle East and South Asia in relation to population and political unrest. This report expressed serious concern about the age group and fertility of men and women in these regions. It was noted that one-third of the population in the Middle East and South Asia was composed of men and women between the ages of 14 and 24 years and of mercurial political allegiance. They are ready to join various Islamic movement because the Muslim youth see fundamental ideological refuge in these movements. Their predecessors have been teaching them about it since their childhood.

Political science scholars believe that increase in population is advantageous in the present era. Geoffrey McNeil of the Population Council said in a conference, tendency of world population, sponsored by the Stanford University in California in November 1985, "the population density in the world will provide balance of power soon." The former director of CIA, Andre S. Cline, wrote in his book, **POWER OF NATIONS IN 1990** which was published in 1992, that the nations with large populations will control larger areas of the world. In other words, the power and influence of nations in the next century will be determined by their populations. This is the main reason why the United States and Western nations are especially exploiting the Muslims, both physically and scientifically, so that the next century does not become the most successful century of the Muslims.

Pakistan: President Asks Government, Opposition To Settle Problems

BK1707135796 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 17 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said the government and the opposition should sit down and seriously discuss vital issues of national concern, like Kashmir, matters of national security, major economic problems, and corruption in society. The president was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the audiovisual equipment at the Institute of Educational Technology at Allamah Iqbal University in Islamabad today.

[Begin Leghari recording] I think the government and the opposition should seriously sit down and discuss with each other. I think this is important for other reasons also. It's important for the supremacy of the parliamentary system that we trust the people's representatives to perform this role rather than other bodies. I think it's also important for upholding the Constitution and the parliamentary system, and for consolidating it that we settle our problems within Parliament. I said in my letter that I hope that as a sequel to this, I hope, they will agree — both sides; and I hope as a sequel to this, they will sit down in standing committees and in other select committees to discuss vital issues that affect the country, like the Kashmir problem, like the question of our national security concerns, and like our major economic problems. [end recording]

The president said his letter to Mr. Nawaz Sharif was misunderstood. He never said the select committees of the National Assembly and Senate will sit in judgment. What he meant by suggesting the formation of the select committees was that these committees should probe deep into the cause of corruption and come up with valuable suggestions as to how laws can be changed and be made more transparent and how the management can be improved so that there are less chances of corruption. Inaugurating the audiovisual equipment in Allamah Iqbal Open University, the president said education is universally regarded as the main instrument of change of economic and social development in all developed countries and in Pakistan, too, in the process of our progress and prosperity it has to occupy a pivotal position. [passage omitted]

Pakistan: Imran Khan Explains His Party's Goals

96AS0029A Karachi TAKBEER in Urdu 30 May 96
pp 33-34

[Interview with Imran Khan by Rafat Sayyed; date and place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Karachi, which was known as a "provider to the destitute" in the past, was never as poor from economic, moral, and political perspectives as is now. Karachi's citizens are angry at all the politicians and political parties in the nation. In this serious situation in our country, the former captain of Pakistan's cricket team and leader of Tehriq-i Insaf, the political movement he has founded, have become the center of attention everywhere. Imran Khan's ideas and political goals appear to be simple at first sight, however, his attitude appears to be fairly vague on some issues. It appears that he does not talk more than he is permitted to. Imran calls this style of talking part of his political strategy. We will learn about his political goals only when he details the goals and program of his party. Imran Khan visited Karachi recently for the first time after becoming a politician. As usual, he visited Defense Colony, Clifton, and Scheme One residential areas [wealthy areas of Karachi] and avoided contacting middle income groups for some reason. TAKBEER interviewed Imran Khan about his reasons for entering politics, contacts with the military, affairs of state, interference of intelligence agencies, and other issues in a car while he was driven to the airport. Imran Khan answered each question patiently and without getting angry. This interview is being presented to TAKBEER readers.

[TAKBEER] Why and for what purpose did you decide to enter politics?

[Imran Khan] I decided to enter politics because every person is afraid that if no practical action is taken now the nation could face serious danger. In every part of the country, important institutions are being destroyed because of corruption and illegal acts. Every Pakistani, including myself, is thinking that our politicians are not able to solve all these problems and they also want establishment of a new political party for that purpose. Only Tehriq-i Insaf can offer them an appropriate leadership and solutions to these problems. After observing this, I decided that after finishing building the hospital for treating cancer victims, I would enter politics.

[TAKBEER] Mr. Imran Khan, you always make Benazir Bhutto and her party a target of your criticism. Is there a possibility of your forming a political coalition with the Muslim League [PML]?

[Imran Khan] The reason I target Prime Minister Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for criticism is because they are in power and have all the resources and power to improve the situation. Shaukat Khanam Hospital was built just for treating despicable sicknesses like cancer. The attitude of the government is known to the world. The prime minister is trying to get this hospital closed just to stop my entry into politics. There is no doubt that politicians in our country, regardless of their affiliations, do not give attention to the problems of the people after they get power. They always have worked for their own vested interests. The contradiction between the promises and actions of Pakistani politicians have surpassed all limits.

[TAKBEER] You have led a colorful life while playing for Pakistani cricket team and are known as an arrogant person with a short fuse. How will you be able to remove these negative impression as a politician?

[Imran Khan] Look here! No one has to defend my past. I have never said that I am a very nice person. Everyone makes mistakes and no one is born an angel. After a man is born, he goes through various phases and starts to change. To err is human and we all sin. We pray to Allah to show us the right path. I am thankful to Allah who told me to take the right path. It is possible that I may never have chosen this direction. However, all this has nothing to do with my entering politics. As for being arrogant and ill-behaved, I have never felt these traits to be truly me. If someone has complaints about my former attitude, I apologize to them.

[TAKBEER] You have not said anything clearly since you established the Tehriq-i Insaf. You are very vague. Is it because of other people?

[Imran Khan] It is not true. My goals always have been clear. It should be clear that the greatest curse and problem for this country has been corruption and dishonesty at government level. I always believed that this practice should end. Otherwise, the future of our nation will be in jeopardy. Pakistan's economic institutions are in a critical situation. All problems in Pakistan are related to it. This is not because the people are not aware of their own problems and what their solutions are. The people, despite the knowledge about the solutions of their problems, are helpless because they cannot take any action. The government does not want to resolve peoples' problems because it would have to sacrifice its vested interests. The people in government are not willing to do that.

[TAKBEER] The role of the military and intelligence agencies is increasing in Pakistan's politics and government affairs. What do you think of this? Will you limit this role if you come to power?

[Imran Khan] Look here! I do not know about the military and I have nothing to do with it. I have not made any deals, either. However, government intelligence agencies — including the Intelligence Bureau (IB), the Federal Investigative Agency (FIA), and Special Branches — are harassing politicians as well as citizens. Does the government spend billions of rupees on these agencies just to have them spy on the citizens? What fear does the government have that it is taking actions that remind us of fascist governments and dictators? A dictator or a fascist uses fear to prolong his rule. Intelligence agencies do not have such pronounced role in a democratic country or system. If I ever get the opportunity, I will try to make sure that the role of intelligence agencies is limited to the defense of the nation and monitoring the enemy. My personal opinion is that it is extremely important to limit the role of intelligence agencies in affairs of the state.

[TAKBEER] Why did you inaugurate the Tehriq-i Insaf in affluent and fashionable areas of Karachi? Why did not you try to learn about the problems faced by the middle class. You always talk about exploitation of the average citizen. Is not this a living example of contradiction between your words and actions?

[Imran Khan] There is no contradiction between my words and actions. I have said often that what I am leading is a campaign. It can be called a political party only after it has prepared its manifesto. The inauguration of Tehriq-Insaf was done properly only in two places — Naushehra and Taxila. At present, I am working only on establishing contacts. I am looking for other leaders for the Tehriq. These leaders will help decide on the Tehriq's philosophy and vision. The work for our manifesto is in its last stage. If we ignore opinions of the intellectuals in our country while preparing our manifesto we will not have the whole country's support. We have not started to contact the average citizen yet as the time is not right for it now. The problems of the common man are identified when rallies and public meetings are held. As for the other question, I will go to any place be it Liaqatabad, Gul Bahar, Defense or Clifton, wherever I am invited. All these places are the same to me.

Pakistan: Trade Policy Sets \$10 Billion Export Target

BK1607122796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English
16 Jul 96 pp 1, 10

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — With eyes set to increase Pakistan's share of trade in the international market, the Trade Policy for 1996-97 envisages to

let Pakistan achieve quantum leaps in exports through value added items, aggressive marketing and by making "Made in Pakistan" label more sought after.

Unfolding the policy on Television and Radio on Monday [15 July], Commerce Minister Ch [Chaudhary] Ahmed Mukhtar said the policy contains several far-reaching changes to facilitate trade and boost export of value added items. With the process of liberalisation of trade almost completed leading to abandoning the traditional kind of annual Trade Policy from next year, the policy sets an export target of \$ 10 b [billion], from the present level of about \$ 8.6 b, which it hopes to achieve by better crops and higher economic and industrial performance. The imports, he said, during 1995-96 were \$ 11.7 b as against \$ 10.7 b during the last financial year resulting in an increase of trade deficit to \$ 3 billion. The overall increase in imports for the full year was contained to 12.5 percent as against an increase of 21.4 percent in the import bill during the previous year.

Highlighting the objectives of the Trade Policy, he said the policy has important measures to achieve specific targets and boosting exports through streamlining of procedures and doing away with host of restrictions. The policy, said Mukhtar, would help achieve specific objectives: to meet our obligations towards globalisation of trade under WTO and to prepare Pakistan for emerging challenges and opportunities; to provide environment for industry to be more competitive in terms of its product quality and prices to meet challenges of free trade; to increase its share of trade in the international market; to diversify exports, commodity as well as country-wise; to achieve quantum jumps in exports through value additions, aggressive marketing and by making "Made in label more sought after, and to promote eco-friendly and child-labour free environments and make procedures, rules and regulations more transparent and simpler to apply.

"Another important objective of this year's trade policy," he said, "is to realise further outward orientation of the country's economy."

Unveiling another objective of the policy, he said economic diplomacy is now the corner stone of international relations and, therefore, the Commerce Ministry plans to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve effectiveness of the country's missions abroad within the existing resources.

The minister said a special task force consisting of leading industrialists and exporters has been set up to advise the government on long-term reforms in various areas such as tariff structure, productivity growth, export

finance, etc. It would finalise its report, said the minister, by September this year.

Addressing the issues of child labour and meeting international product quality standards, Mukhtar said, "There is a clear recognition both by manufacturers as well as the government departments concerned that this practice is socially inefficient; a child out of school and on the shop floor today is a less productive worker tomorrow."

He said a survey to assess the magnitude of the problem of child labour is being conducted in collaboration with ILO [International Labor Organization] and other relevant agencies. "Plans are under way to establish rehabilitation centres for providing education, medical care, nutrition and vocational training to children. A scheme for introducing a 'Rugmark' for hand-knitted carpets is now in final stages."

He said upgrading product quality according to international standards has not yet been very encouraging. "Far fewer firms have been ISO [International Organization of Standardization] 9000 certified than was expected despite the awareness campaigns launched by the Export Promotion Bureau. There is another scheme to start a series of programmes for training the trainers who could then assist firms in certification."

He said a number meet the obligations under the Uruguay Round agreement are also being taken. [sentence as published] The minister said the legislation on anti-dumping and countervailing duties is being redrafted. In the sphere of specific trade policy measures for streamlining of procedures, Mukhtar announced 17 important Trade Policy measures. They included:

- 1) At present imported goods in their original or unprocessed form could be re-exported subject to the conditions that the re-export f.o.b [free on board] price was higher by at least ten per cent than the c&f [cost and freight] price and that an authorisation was obtained from the ministry of commerce.

It has been decided to remove the condition of obtaining authorisation of the ministry of commerce and to lower the extent of value addition to 2.5 percent. Customs authorities would be permitted to allow exports subject to general guidelines prescribed by the ministry of commerce. Special facilities would now be available for exports to neighbouring countries by sea and air;

- 2) Under the existing export policy, cement is included in the list of commodities which are exportable through public sector agencies only. Major part of the cement industry stands privatised now. With the establishment of new cement units, it is expected that there will be some surplus available for export.

It has therefore, been decided to remove condition of export of cement through public sector agencies only. Export of cement clinker, which is a semi-finished product, would also be allowed to be exported in the same way. The ministry of commerce would work out guidelines for export of cement and clinker keeping in view the production and consumption patterns in different parts of the country. However, export of cement would be allowed only by sea;

3) At present export finance facility is Permissible for 180 days on synthetic and art silk textile products. It has been recommended to the State Bank of Pakistan to consider extending this facility for cotton textile, goods, non-textile, export items and minerals such as blister copper, magnesite and chrome ore concentrates;

4) Under the existing customs regulations, a number of manufacturing activities are provided the facility of duty-free import of materials on a temporary basis provided these are subsequently exported. It has been decided to allow the same facility to the industries including canning of foods (fish products), manufacturing of audio and video cassettes and software floppies, and manufacturing of kitchen utensils and other products of plastic materials;

5) Export of carpets as personal baggage has been allowed on production of proof of foreign currency encashment only. Export permit from ministry of commerce will no longer be required. For statistical purposes, a special shipping bill will be required in case the value of carpets being exported as personal baggage exceeds, Rs [rupees] 10,000;

6) In order to facilitate import of machinery for export of goods, a procedure will be evolved jointly by the ministry of commerce and CBR [Central Board of Revenue];

7) In order to encourage deep water fishing facilities, import of factory ships and fishing vessels for processing and preserving fishery products, are being allowed at a concessionary import duty of ten per cent.

Machinery and equipment in these vessels will also be charged the same rate of duty. Import of secondhand fishing trawlers has also been allowed subject to the conditions applicable for the import of other secondhand ships;

8) Export of bona-fide personal baggage has been facilitated by removing checks by the ministry of commerce. Customs officials will be empowered to decide on the bonafides in such cases;

9) Export of electric fans has been allowed without getting Pakistan Standards Institute certification.

The exports will, however, have to conform to the standards prescribed by the importing country. Exporters getting I.S.O. 9000 certification would be exempt from this condition;

10) Cotton and cotton based goods being the backbone of our economy, a standing committee has been set up to provide a pro-active cotton policy in order to ensure a common denominator of protection to the divergent interests of growers, ginners, exporters and manufacturers of textile goods;

11) Procedures for importing, pesticides and insecticides, has been simplified and made more transparent;

12) Application for permission to re-export frustrated cargo will now be dealt, with, by the customs authorities, who have been authorised to allow re-export of frustrated cargo;

13) According to the current import policy, certain chemicals/raw materials are importable by industrial consumers for which they have to seek permission from various ministries/divisions to determine their entitlement for import. However, it is not clearly laid down as to which ministries should be approached to obtain permission. This position has now been rectified and the ministries from which authorisation is required have been clearly mentioned;

14) In order to derive maximum benefit from the import of allopathic drugs and pharmaceutical raw materials condition of a shelf life of 75 percent at the time of import against the present 50 percent has been prescribed. However, in specific cases the director general health may allow exemption from this condition;

15) Used/refurbished CNG [compressed natural gas] and, LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] cylinders are being made importable subject to safety certificate by the department of explosives. This will also facilitate availability of economical, environmental friendly fuels;

16) In order to check any spread of virus or other plant diseases, It has been decided that import of sugarcane seeds and banana suckers will be subject to prior approval of the department of plant protection;

17) Under the current important policy order import of fans (table, floor, wall, window ceiling) is banned, except fans up to 88 watts.

All electric fans are being made importable.

APP adds: A one-stop export terminal will be operational in Karachi within the next few days where all export related formalities could be completed under one roof, the minister said. He said Customs clearance and banking formalities would be available round the clock

and through out the year. Consignments of imported inputs for exports will also be processed at this terminal.

A number of in-depth studies on opening trade with India are in the final stages of preparation, the commerce minister said. He said in the context of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] agreement, Pakistan signed the South Asian Preferential Agreement (SAPTA) under which all member countries

of SAARC agreed to cut import duties on, each other's goods by 10 percent.

Pakistan is also closely following the developments in APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] and ASEAN. We are working towards joining APEC and also are establishing a "full dialogue partnership" with ASEAN.

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